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THE TIMES

No. 65,403

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 1995

Howard scores Commons victory



Howard: he said Blair
was unfit for office

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

MICHAEL HOWARD emerged unscathed last night after comfortably surviving a Labour attack on his handling of the Prison Service and the sacking of his head Derek Lewis.

In one of the noisiest and most acrimonious debates in recent Commons history the Home Secretary was given a 49-vote majority after a speech in which he savagely criticised the Labour leadership and Mr Lewis.

He crowned a strong parliamentary performance by accusing Tony

Blair of being unfit for office because he had allowed himself to be used as a vehicle for "the spleen of a bitter man." A Labour motion deploring his unwillingness to accept responsibility for serious operational failures in the prison service was rejected by 280 votes to 231.

But Labour claimed last night that Mr Howard had failed completely to dispose of the two central charges against him — that he had sought the suspension rather than the removal of John Marriot, the former Governor of Parkhurst, and that he insisted that Mr Marriot be moved from Parkhurst on January 10 this year, the day he made his

Commons statement on the escapes, rather than later as Mr Lewis wanted.

On Channel 4 News Mr Lewis said he had opposed the decision to remove Mr Marriot on January 10. He said the word "today" was included in the draft presented to the Home Secretary. "It was a word I objected to. The Home Secretary insisted it remain in."

The debate was short and completely dominated by the speeches of Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and Mr Howard. At times the Commons turned into a bear garden as Conservative MPs tried to destabilise Mr Straw by

keeping up a constant barrage of mutterings against him.

Mr Straw was often discomfited by barracking during a speech in which he said the Prison Service was in crisis through the exercise of "power without responsibility" by Mr Howard. He claimed that there was "overwhelming evidence" of interference by Mr Howard in the day-to-day running of the service.

Pressure had continued on Mr Howard in the hours leading up to the debate with the resignation of a second of the four non-executive directors of the Prisons Board. Mrs Urmila Bannerjee followed Geoffrey Keyes in quitting in protest at

the sacking of Mr Lewis after the highly critical Learmont report on prison security.

Mr Howard had decided in advance to cast aside Whitehall rules in order to clear himself of charges that he had been less than frank with the Commons. He had planned to disclose the confidential minutes of a meeting between himself and Mr Lewis, in order to show conclusively that the Governor of Parkhurst was removed on the orders of Mr Lewis and not as a result of pressure from Mr Howard.

In the event Mr Straw, who spoke first, revealed the minutes to back his own case that Mr Howard had

told Mr Lewis on the morning of January 10 that he warned Mr Marriot suspended and not moved.

The minutes, addressed to Mr Lewis, stated that the the Home Secretary has said that he entirely agreed with Mr Lewis's analysis that Mr Marriot could not stay as Governor of Parkhurst "but he wondered whether it was right for Mr Marriot to be moved to other duties as distinct from being suspended from duty."

Mr Straw alleged that for all

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£40m bill for Euro ruling on medicines

By FRANCES GIBB, NICHOLAS WOOD
AND CHARLES BRENNER

THE Government is facing a health bill of tens of millions of pounds after the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday that men are entitled to free prescriptions at the same age as women.

Amid protests from Euro-sceptic Tories that the Luxembourg-based court had become "a superior non-elected government", Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said the Government must comply with the ruling at a cost to the taxpayer of £40 million for the first year.

He announced that more than one million men aged 60 to 64 were entitled to free prescriptions from today, and that men in this age group who had paid for a prescription in the last three months were eligible for a refund of the £5.25 charge.

In its judgment, the latest in a stream of rulings to upset London, the European Union's highest court said Britain's system, which gives free medicine to women at 60 and to men at 65, was a form of discrimination. Britain, it said, must provide free medical prescriptions for retired men at the same age as women.

The Government bowed swiftly to the ruling. Within hours, advertisements were placed with national newspapers inviting men aged 60 to 64 to claim their money back for prescriptions paid in the last months — a concession which will cost around £10 million.

But there was controversy over the three-month limit set by the Government on the period for back claims. The court had rejected a Government plea not to give a retrospective ruling. The court said there was "no reason to limit the temporal effect of this judgment."

The ruling will cost the Government £30 million a year in lost charges from Britain's 1.4 million men aged 60-64, plus the £10 million which may be claimed back for charges already paid. But

the Government limit on back claims to three months could save up to £300 million.

The court decision was welcomed by older people's groups, but denounced as an "outrage" by Tory Euro-sceptics, who seized on the ruling as fresh fuel for their campaign to curb the Euro-courts powers.

It was a personal victory for Cyril Richardson, the 66-year-old town crier of Walsall, in the West Midlands. An asthma sufferer, he was paying about £50 a year in charges.

He said it was unjust that he had to wait longer than Evelyn, his wife, for free prescriptions. "With the greatest respect to the ladies, I could not see why men should not be equal with them when it came to paying for medicine. It seemed to me a terrible injustice."

Mr Richardson argued that UK regulations exempting women at the age of 60 and men at the age of 65 were discriminatory and in breach of a 1979 European Community directive providing for equal treatment of the sexes in social security matters. He was backed by Help the Aged and other organisations in his five-year battle.

The Government contested the case from the start, arguing that the British prescription charge system was not covered by European discrimination directives.

Don Steele, executive director of the Association of Retired Persons over 50, said: "It's great news and will have an enormous effect on the lives of around 1.4 million men." But he said the time-limit on claims could spark a new legal challenge.

Sally Greengross, the director general of Age Concern, said: "Many men between 60 and 64 may have suffered financial hardship because of medication costs. This decision offers them no consolation for past expenditure."

Judgment row, page 4
Refund form, page 15



Political incorrectness, Russian-style: President Yeltsin goes on the attack at a press conference in the Kremlin yesterday

Yeltsin proves that Russia is in an unsafe pair of hands

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday surprised journalists and embarrassed his advisers after he opened a press conference in the Kremlin by pulling off another bizarre public stunt.

Emerging into an ornate reception hall, Mr Yeltsin at first ignored assembled journalists and instead sneaked up on two unsuspecting women members of his staff, who were each given a presidential punch.

The first jumped out of her chair in surprise, the more so when she realised the identity of the prankster. The second confronted her assailant with an inaudible remark. Participants at the press conference described the Russian leader as looking "a little stiff but otherwise healthy".

The incident is likely to be added to the long list of similar strange episodes. Last year in Berlin the Russian leader seized the baton from a military bandman before drunkenly conducting a regimental orchestra. He once threw his former press secretary into an icy river during a boat trip.

Russians have a traditional tolerance of boisterous behaviour but are conscious of the need for dignity among their leaders. The incident that more than anything caused the downfall of Khrushchev was his banging his shoe on the desk at the UN. Russians were initially amused by Mr Yeltsin's escapades, but are increasingly critical of such behaviour.

Kozyrev dismissed, page 15

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Doctors urge women on 'unsafe' Pill not to panic

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS urged women not to panic last night after one and a half million users of the Pill were advised to switch to a safer brand because of the risk of blood clots.

In one of the biggest upsets in the 30-year history of the Pill, Government scientists issued a warning that certain brands carry twice the risk of causing clots in leg veins.

Doctors and pharmacists were alerted to the danger in a letter from the Committee on Safety of Medicines yesterday. The letter, agreed after an emergency meeting of the committee last week, recommends that women change to another brand after they finish their monthly course unless they are intolerant of other oral contraceptives.

Seven brands of the combined pill, containing the sex

hormones progestogen and oestrogen, among the 25 on the market are affected. They are Femodene, Femodene ED, Minulet, Triadene, Tri-Minulet, Marvelon and Merdilone.

All contain one of two progestogens, desogestrel and gestodene, introduced in the 1980s. They are taken by half the three million women in Britain who use oral contraceptives.

Family planning clinics are braced for calls with some already reporting an enormous number. Women were told to complete their course to avoid the risk of unwanted pregnancy, but advised to see their doctor before completing. Professor Michael Rawlins, chairman of the Committee on Safety of Medicines, urged women taking the affected brands to consult their doctor.

"The chance of a woman on the Pill experiencing a thrombosis is small. Suddenly stopping the Pill could lead to pregnancy and the likelihood of a thrombosis occurring in pregnancy is much higher than on any type of Pill."

The risk of thrombosis was put at 30 in 100,000 users per year — half the rate in pregnancy. However the risk is twice that associated with other brands (15 per 100,000 users).

Pill manufacturers reacted angrily. Wyeth Laboratories, makers of Minulet, said: "These results are inconsistent with more than ten years of substantial clinical trial data and spontaneous side-effect reports from around the world."

Safety reassurances, page 6

Princess urged to resign over Olympic bid

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess Royal was accused yesterday in a Commons committee of "not pulling her weight" in lobbying for Manchester to host the 2000 Olympic Games.

Gerald Kaufman, Labour chairman of the National Heritage Committee, suggested that the Princess should resign as one of only two British members of the International Olympic

Committee, after the failure of Manchester's bid to stage the millennium Games. The committee is investigating British attempts to host international sporting events. Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, said that after an informal meeting of the committee with members of the Manchester bid team on Monday: "We got the impression that they [two IOC members] had not pulled their weight on behalf of Britain."

Mr Ashton believed that, while the

other 84 IOC members were lobbying "elbow-nudging and wheeler-dealing, like politicians", the Princess and Dame Mary Glen-Haig, the other British IOC member, thought lobbying "rather beneath them". In the ballot in 1993, Manchester finished behind Sydney and Peking.

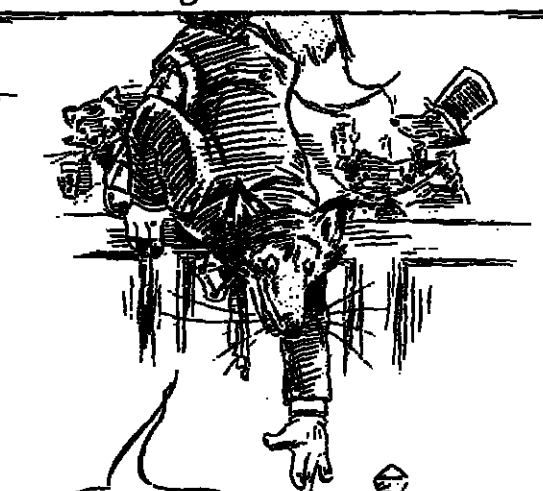
Craig Riddie, of the British Olympic Association, told the committee that, although the Princess was an extremely busy woman, among her credentials for being an IOC member

was that she had competed in the 1976 Games and was president of the International Equestrian Federation.

Sir Bob Scott, who led Manchester's Olympic bid and was listening to the evidence, said afterwards: "The Princess and Mary Glen-Haig have both announced publicly that they did not lobby, but they gave us full support over the bid."

A spokeswoman for the Princess said last night: "She made her total support for Manchester very clear."

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The House that was not made for Straw

THE world wanted to know where operational matters end, and where policy begins. By the end of opening speeches of the debate on prison security, that was still the question. Would the immediate transfer to other duties of Jack Straw be an operational question for Tony Blair, or a policy one? Revenge of the squeegee merchants!

If ever proof were needed that you need more than an arguable case to win a debate in our House of Commons, or that you can be on the trickiest ground yet still not lose, yesterday provided it. The Opposition saw what had looked like a powerful political opportunity crumble to dust. Michael Howard turned

what was a most imperfect defence into a smashing attack not only upon Straw, but on Blair's fitness for office. Straw got off to a dreadful start, stumbling through the metaphysics of "policy" v "operation". His unease became apparent. Tony jobs, scenting blood, grew bolder, cackling and barracking.

Then in stepped the brainy end of the streetfighting tendency: Bernard Jenkin (Colchester) asked Straw if he would have suspended the prisons director. Unwilling to answer, Straw should have prepared a smarter way of saying so. Instead he floundered. The Tories bullied harder. It reached the point when Straw was obliged to



ascribe an apparent blunder in Labour's stance to a typographical error in *The Guardian*. MPs fell about. He never recovered.

Tony Blair sat beside him like a parent watching his boy ploughing a speech-day violin recital, caught snapping and twanging all over the place. Gradually, the muscles in Mr Blair's face twisted themselves into configurations which could have flummoxed a Scouts' knotting champion.

Opposite, Michael Howard sat sucking in his cheeks with

every appearance of a cheat at marbles whose sleight of hand was outwitting the other boys. From time to time he would intervene on Straw to knock him, again, off his stride playing, cat-like, with his prey.

Mr Straw's plight grew so dire that the Deputy Speaker, Michael Morris, ordered the Tories to leave him alone. At this they began hissing "ssshh!" at each other while he spoke. Blair began prompting Straw and advising him, by scowls, not to take interven-

tions. Many will remember yesterday as "a marvellous Commons occasion". It was certainly dramatic. Yet the irony is that most MPs on both sides could see from the start, and agree, the truth: that the Home Secretary had exerted pressure, which it was hard for Mr Lewis to resist, to suspend John Marriot; but that whether this amounted to "instructing" him was theological. Did he "decide" or was he "instructed"? Maybe he was instructed to decide! Maybe he decided to take instruction! Upon this silly dispute was built an altercation where there was a sniff of truth and a whiff of humbug on both sides.

Finally Blair's patience

snapped. He effectively grabbed his spokesman's portfolio from him and began challenging Howard himself — with no more success. It brutally undermined the man Howard immediately dubbed his "sidekick". Howard said Blair's allegedly dodged questions cast doubt on his fitness for office. Bluster, of course. It was the Labour leader's impetuous public humiliation of his own lieutenant which did, perhaps, raise a question.

Derek Lewis stayed away, no doubt on the advice of his PR consultants. PR v Parliament: there was something delicious in this collision between a modern stupidity and an ancient one. The old stupidities won.

Success claim for gene treatment

Gene therapy has achieved its first clearcut success, restoring normal life to four children born with a rare genetic defect that left them vulnerable to infections, scientists claim. The two Italian and two American children were born without the ability to produce an enzyme known as ADA, or adenosine deaminase, vital to the functioning of the immune system. Such children usually die young, although bone-marrow transplants or treatment with the enzyme can be life-saving.

Four years ago an American team led by Dr French Anderson from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, treated two girls by inserting the correct ADA gene into the killer T-cells of their immune systems. In *Science*, the team reports that the therapy worked and has given the girls the ability to produce ADA. A second report in the same journal from an Italian team led by Dr Claudio Bordignon tells the same story.

Fire shuts reactor

A nuclear reactor was shut down yesterday after a fire broke out at the Hartlepool power station in Cleveland. Nuclear Electric, the station operator, said that no radioactive part of the station on the banks of the Tees was affected and there was no leak of any radioactive material. Noise of the fire was heard in the nearby Seaton Snook beck. Environmental protection officers from the National Rivers Authority set up booms to keep it from the river.

Murder case vet appeals

A veterinary surgeon found guilty of murdering his wife using horse drugs won leave to appeal against his conviction yesterday. Ryan James, 41, was jailed for a minimum of 20 years by Stafford Crown Court, which was told he killed his wife Sandra, the 39-year-old mother of his three children, to collect £180,000 life insurance. Lord Justice Roch, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Thayne Forbes, said it was an unusual and difficult case that merited further consideration by the full court.

Focus on boy failures

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has set up a task force to examine why boys are falling so far behind after almost 50 per cent more boys than girls failed GCSE English last year. Dr Nick Tate, SCAA chief executive, urged more "structured" teaching, saying boys responded to targets. Underachievement had to be tackled early — 9 per cent of under-sevens boys chose to read rather than watch television or play computer games, compared with 30 per cent of girls. *Education*, page 41

Shilton deal on debts

Peter Shilton, the former England goalkeeper, escaped bankruptcy yesterday after creditors accepted his proposals to pay off debts estimated at £448,000. Mr Shilton, 46, and his wife Sue, owe the money to an undisclosed number of creditors to whom he will pay a proportion of his earnings. He said: "I got into a bit of a hole with property. That resulted in financial pressure. I tried to keep things going as best I could, but things came to a head. I am absolutely delighted that my creditors have supported my proposals."

Joint department head

Sir Tim Lankaster, the civil servant at the centre of the dispute over British aid for the Pergau dam in Malaysia, has found himself out of a job after failing to win the top post in the Education and Employment Department. Michael Bichard will be the sole Permanent Secretary in the merged department from January. Mr Bichard, formerly chief executive of Gloucestershire County Council, was the first Permanent Secretary appointed by open competition.

Murder police free man

A man questioned for the second time about the murder in August of Vikki Thompson, who was attacked and left for dead while walking her dog, has been released without charge. Mark Weston, 20, was arrested on Wednesday at his home in Ascot-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. A Thames Valley police spokesman said last night that Mr Weston had been released on police bail to return at a later date.

Poverty 'worsening'

Inner-city deprivation has become worse in the past decade in some areas, according to a follow-up to the Church of England's controversial report *Faith in the City*. Ten years ago, the report singled out Bradford in West Yorkshire for the poor conditions on its estates. In 1993 Christian leaders in the city set out to see if circumstances had improved. Their two-year study that showed tenants are now faced with poverty, crime and unemployment almost daily.

Husband charged

David Howells, 47, husband of Eve Howells, the teacher killed at her home in August, has been charged with her murder and will appear in court at Huddersfield today. Two youths have already been charged with her murder.

New Spectator Editor

Frank Johnson is moving from the deputy editorship of *The Sunday Telegraph* to be Editor of the *Spectator* magazine. He replaces Dominic Lawson. Simon Heffer, deputy editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, has resigned.

Researchers play down asthma link to pollution

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

AIR pollution is unlikely to be the cause of asthma, but it does aggravate the condition, according to government scientists.

The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants found the link between traffic, power station and industrial fumes was much weaker than suggested. Little association was found between the regional distribution of asthma and that of air pollution and there was no convincing evidence that the disease was more common in urban than in rural areas.

Introducing their report, released today, Dr Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said: "The committee on the medical effects of air pollutants has considered all the evidence... the report findings reveal that the link between air pollution and asthma in the UK is much less definite than has been suggested." However, he added: "It is entirely reasonable that air pollution may exacerbate asthma attacks."

He said the committee would shortly be publishing reports on links between air pollution and heart attacks, bronchitis and other illnesses. He hinted that these would present a far stronger case for dramatic reductions in traffic and other airborne emissions.

The asthma findings, based on a review of research in Britain and abroad, challenge the belief that a sharp rise in cases in the past three decades is a result of fumes. Currently about 10 per cent of children and 4 to 6 per cent of adults in the UK are diagnosed as having asthma.

Professor Stephen Holgate, chairman of the committee, who is based at Southampton University, said yesterday that the causes of asthma may be linked with a decline in nutri-

tion, particularly in the mother during pregnancy, an increase in smoking among women and the rise in well-insulated homes that suit the house dust mite.

Dr Malcolm Green, president of the British Lung Foundation, disputed the report's findings and said there was a need for urgent research. "I am in no doubt that air pollution can make asthma worse in susceptible patients. It may be no coincidence that the UK's worst ever asthma outbreak last summer happened at a time when a silent smog hung over our cities."

The findings coincide with scientists linking severe asthma attacks with foam bedding. Researchers fear many parents may be unwittingly increasing their children's risk of the worst kind of asthma by switching from leather to man-made bedding in the belief that the leathers are triggering attacks. New findings challenge the practice and indicate synthetic materials may be a greater hazard than natural materials.

"The idea that leather pillows increase the risk of allergic asthma is widely accepted but remarkably there have been no studies until now. Our study suggests a substantially lower risk of troublesome asthma among children using feather bedding relative to those using non-feather bedding," say the researchers, whose findings are published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The scientists, led by Dr David Strachan of St George's Hospital medical school in southwest London, estimate that foam pillows could be behind as many as 53 per cent of the people who suffer severe asthma, an acute and life threatening form of the disease.



More haste, less speed: Nigel Mansell yesterday in his part-time police role

New driving force for Mansell

NIGEL MANSELL, the former Formula One and Indy-car champion, swapped his £100,000 Mercedes for a diesel patrol car yesterday as he started his first day as a special constable with Devon and Cornwall police, based in Exeter. But he will remain strictly a passenger for a year until completing a one-day

course, a police driving test and gaining experience with a fully trained police driver. Mansell said he signed up as a special constable to put something back into society. "If we can give the children of today a little bit of a role model from the point of view of drinking and driving, safe driving and the use of seatbelts, it might

go some way towards helping a number of people in the future," he said. He will put in about four hours' duty a week, including Bank Holidays and weekends, and will tackle everything from co-ordinating neighbourhood watch schemes to working with regular officers on drugs raids.

Two hurt in blast at arms research plant

By Gillian Bowditch

TWO civil servants were badly injured yesterday when ammunition exploded at a high security Ministry of Defence base. The man and the woman, who were involved in weapons testing at West Freugh in Strathairn, were taken by air ambulance to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary for burns treatment.

The condition of the man was said last night to be critical. The woman was said to be serious. The Ministry refused to name the two but said they were civilian scientists employed to test weapons.

The explosion happened at around 11.30am and the area was immediately cordoned off. Dumfries and Galloway Police were informed and an inquiry is underway. A spokesman said there was no threat to the public.

The plant is run by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, a government agency set up under the Next Steps programme. A spokesman for the agency, which is based at Farnborough, Hampshire, said: "The pair were working on a piece of ammunition when it exploded for some reason."

"It was not a rocket, but some piece of ammunition which is tested at this particular base. The building is still structurally sound and it appears to have been a localised type of explosion although both people are seriously injured."

Other workers were treated for shock at the base after witnessing the explosion.

West Freugh employs about 200 people. The former RAF base is one of the main employers in Wigtonshire and is used extensively for aircraft and air weapons testing on land and sea. It is guarded by MoD police.

Surface to air missiles testing is undertaken at West Freugh and it has a large bombing zone extending into Luce Bay on the Solway Firth.

Howard scores Commons victory

Continued from page 1

the bluster the minutes proved that Mr Howard had raised the issue of suspension.

Mr Howard said that he had every right to be consulted and that in any case Mr Marriot had not been suspended but moved, as Mr Lewis had decided. "I was entitled to discuss the action which it was proposed to take, and I did. I was not entitled to give instructions — I did not. It was the Director General who decided that the Governor should be moved — he was."

Mr Straw had alleged that Mr Lewis had left the meeting to consider a deadline set for him by Mr Howard for changing his mind. Mr Howard said he had no idea why he left the meeting but he agreed there was a deadline.

With Mr Marriot watching from the public gallery, Mr Straw told the Home Secretary: "It's well known, not least to the press, that he wanted Mr Marriot's head and wanted to present it to the House that afternoon."

As the debate developed into

an angry shouting match Mr Blair intervened, asking whether it was true that the suggestion that Mr Lewis be removed on January 10 came from Mr Howard. To thunderous cheers from the Tories Mr Howard said the intervention cast the most serious questions on Mr Blair's judgement and was one he would come to regret. Mr Blair put the same question and Mr Howard denied that he had inserted "today" in the draft.

But within minutes of Mr Howard's speech senior Lab-

our sources went on the attack again. They said that the statement had been drafted by Richard Wilson, then Home Office Permanent Secretary, on the instructions of Mr Howard. Mr Lewis objected and was overruled.

John Major had earlier set the tone for the debate when he said that the Home Secretary "richly deserves and gets my full support in his fight against crime."

Peter Riddell, page 11
Leading article, page 21

Space missions saved by agreement on cuts

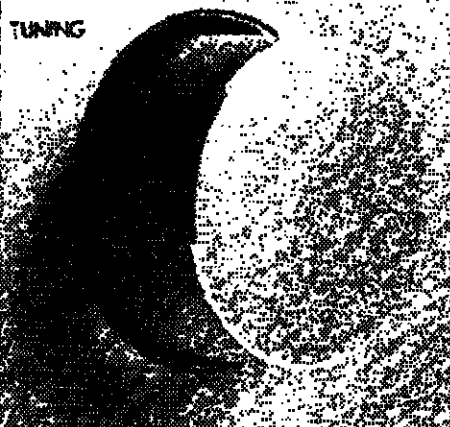
By Nick Nuttall

SCORES of 21st century space missions, including one to Mercury and another to search for Einstein's elusive gravity waves, appeared to be safe last night after Britain dropped its demands for deep cuts in the European Space Agency's programme.

Last night member states, including Britain, agreed a compromise in which the £292 million science budget

will be cut by 15 per cent over five years. The cut is likely to satisfy critics of the agency who claim it could make big savings by being more tightly run while keeping most missions on course.

The full consequences are still to be seen but experts are predicting that it is likely that some space missions will be delayed by a few years but not cancelled.



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'We remained optimistic of a normal future for the girls — this is a terrible loss'

'Unlucky' Siamese twins die from rare bowel disease

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Siamese twins Chloe and Nicole Astbury died within minutes of each other yesterday from a rare bowel disease only days after doctors had discussed allowing them home for Christmas.

The girls died at 14.00 on Tuesday after a three-day fight against the infection, which affects newborn babies and was unrelated to their condition. Their surgeon said they were "extremely unlucky" to have become infected.

Brian, 26, and Melanie Astbury, 25, the twins' parents, from Denton, Greater Manchester, were said to be devastated. "Melanie and Brian were full of hope and this turn of events was totally unexpected for them both," Andrea McWatt, their solicitor, said.

The twins died at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, where they were born five weeks ago and underwent life-saving surgery to separate a shared bowel within three days of their birth. The girls, the first Siamese twins in Britain for nine years, were joined at the abdomen.

The fact that they shared only one major organ, the liver, had given surgeons hope that they could be successfully



Alan Dickson said the infection was "bad luck"

three days of their lives and they were placed on life support machines on Tuesday night. Nicole died first.

Alan Dickson, paediatric surgeon, told a news conference yesterday that the disease originates in the bowel but eventually affects all the vital systems in the body.

"The body's own bacteria can mutate under stress and cause this infection," he said. "It is not a disease which is caught or contracted through feeding. It would have been impossible to save the life of either twin by surgery."

"The situation was such that both babies deteriorated so quickly a surgical operation in their condition would almost certainly have been fatal."

Mr Dickson spoke of how he had to tell the twins' parents that their children were dying. "I spoke to them on the telephone inviting them to come to the hospital and when they arrived I spoke to them in the privacy of a quiet room advising them we could do no more for these children and they were going to die."

"We asked if they wanted to come and spend some time with the babies then, but they were unable to do so, such was their distress." The girls, who had been on life support systems since Tuesday night,



Andrea McWatt said Brian and Melanie Astbury were full of hope and the twins' death was totally unexpected

"died of their own accord", he said.

The couple, who have a three-year-old son, Nathan, held the girls for a short time after they died.

Nicole and Chloe had been the victims of three strokes of bad fortune, said Mr Dickson: "It is very bad luck to be a conjoined twin in the first place but our information on

the scans was very encouraging."

But as you know they had an operation revealing congenital problems with the gut far beyond what we could have expected. To come through what they came through in the first 11 days of life and then to be hit with this out of the blue was extremely bad luck." He said medical

staff had remained optimistic that it would have been viable to separate the babies so they could have looked forward to normal lives.

The twins had progressed much better than they could reasonably have expected after their major operation four weeks ago and had been fed on milk, both orally and through a tube to the abdo-

men. Only last week doctors had discussed with Mr and Mrs Astbury the possibility of the babies being discharged from hospital.

"We remained optimistic and were hopeful for a normal future for the twins," added Mr Dickson. "Their death is a terrible, tragic loss and has deeply saddened everyone at the hospital."

Cash alert as club votes on women

By DAVID CHARTER

MEMBERS of a gentlemen's club are being alerted to financial difficulties as they vote on changes expected to hasten equal treatment for women.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the historic The United Oxford and Cambridge University Club in Pall Mall, admitted in a letter that it expects "a large loss" for the first time in 16 years.

Controversy over the club's unequal treatment of women, in the year Oxford celebrates the 75th anniversary of its first female graduates, has triggered the resignation of many members, including 69 heads of Oxbridge colleges. Women are allowed to become "lady associate members" with restricted access.

Sir Bryan said: "The club is also budgeting for a large loss next year." The overall financial position was not under immediate threat because of the size of its reserves, but he suspected most members would agree that "a resolution of our constitutional arrangements would be, to put it mildly, helpful".

A ballot in 1993 showed a three-to-one majority in favour of equal rights, but the turnout was only 49 per cent, just short of the required 50 per cent. The new ballot will decide whether club rules can be changed by a straight two-thirds majority of those voting, and be challenged every two years instead of five.

Farmer buried illegal house

By LIN JENKINS

A FARM contractor buried the lower floor of his house and placed 'praise or blame' on council officials who believed he had demolished it in accordance with a High Court order. He later unearthed it to make a bungalow.

Trevor Sedgbeer had been told to demolish the house, set into the hillside of his Devon smallholding, after building it without planning permission. Instead he covered the top and sides with earth and seeded it. When South Hams council officials visited Tullysmear Farm, Stoke Gabriel, they saw only a grassy mound. The council wrote to Mr Sedgbeer that it was satisfied that he had complied with the court order, granted last October, to demolish the house by January 31 or face three months in prison for contempt of court.

However, in July Mr Sedgbeer, 47, unearthed the remaining floor to make the two-bedroom bungalow. "I have complied with the enforcement notice to take it down to ground level and the council confirmed in writing that I had done so," he said. He insists that the council never asked him if the building was still there, or whether he was still living in it.

Graham Rowe, of the council, said the case would go back to the High Court, in which case Mr Sedgbeer could again face jail. "Through his concealment of the building and his subsequent action in revealing it, it is clear he has not complied with the notice."

Night in Belfast causes jitters in Washington

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton wants to spend a night in Belfast during his visit to Northern Ireland next month. It is a desire met with little enthusiasm in London.

The British Embassy in Washington talks nervously of an "accommodation problem", while visions of the security apparatus surrounding an American President ennobled in the heart of Belfast make ministers quake.

There had been no indication previously that the President would wish to stay in Ulster, where he was expected to spend a day visiting Belfast and Londonderry before heading to less controversial quarters in Dublin.

But Mr Clinton is said to have requested that the schedule for his visit include one night north of the border,



Admiral Crowe was sent to prepare way

preferably in the heart of Belfast. Admiral William Crowe, the US Ambassador to London, made an advance expedition earlier this month to work on the detail.

Administration officials said Mr Clinton had earmarked the Europa, the large central Belfast hotel, as a possible venue. It was attacked more than 20 times at the height of troubles in the Province — a symbolic factor not lost on the White House. Now completely refurbished, the hotel was reopened last year and has suites enough for any presidential party.

One British diplomat in Washington said yesterday: "It is well known that he wants to stay a night in Belfast but there is an accommodation problem. There are no head of state facilities — it creates difficulties over both security and the proper level of accommodation." But he added: "If the President wants something then I am sure we can sort it out."

The Government is concerned that an already delicate programme in the North, which includes a walk along the walls overlooking Bogside in Londonderry and a visit to the peace line in West Belfast, will become more strained the longer Mr Clinton spends.

The Clinton Administration, on the other hand, is clearly keen to wrest control of the visit from London to ensure the trip plays favourably to its own domestic audience in the United States.

Grants help film makers to see the bigger picture

By DAVID ALDERSON

LONDON'S film-makers received an important boost yesterday as an agency was founded to cut red tape and entice production companies to the capital.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said that her department was giving £100,000 to the London Film Commission, enabling it to start next year.

For more than a decade, the British film industry has campaigned for an agency in the capital. It argued that the commission would find ways for film-makers to overcome traffic and security problems, and work at sites as awkward as Whitehall, the Palace of Westminster and Buckingham Palace. Foreign film-makers have complained of having to grapple with the bureaucracy of 33 different boroughs.

Mrs Bottomley said: "The international film industry is fast-moving and mobile. Increasingly, producers have a

choice of countries in which to base their productions. So the UK cannot afford to rest on its laurels."

The grant was welcomed yesterday by Sir Sydney Samuelson, the British Film Commissioner, head of the government-funded organisation which, for 4½ years, has devoted itself to wooing film-makers to Britain. "A film commission working for London is absolutely vital

since 80 per cent of all the UK film and television production activity emanates from, or is based in, the Greater London area," Sir Sydney said.

It is estimated that film-makers spend more than £50,000 a day on people and services. There is also the long-lasting effect that a film shot in London can have on drawing visitors to the capital.

The British Film Commission argues that a local commission would help to overcome the problems faced, for example, by the film *Patriot Games*, which featured an assassination attempt on an American diplomat as he left Whitehall.

The Metropolitan Police could not allow ten production trucks to park outside Whitehall: the film company's request came months after an IRA rocket-attack from a parked truck.

The British Film Commission found them a smaller building in Greenwich, south-east London.

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MPs urge Major to restrict powers of European court

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday Bernard Jenkin, the Conservative member for Colchester North, said the ruling on prescription charges was illogical. In an interview on BBC1's *One O'Clock News*,

allowing only the highest courts of member states to refer questions of law to Luxembourg (at present most referrals come from lower courts). Such proposals, which effectively give politicians

Court judgment, page 1

Court judgment, page 1



Cyril Richardson acclaiming his victory at the Houses of Parliament yesterday. He decided to fight because the charges were "unfair"

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Colleagues from the Association for Retired Persons over 50, who backed Cyril Richardson, 66, from Walsall, promised him champagne and pre-

the opportunity to save themselves hundreds of pounds a year in prescription charges. It could also mean a small windfall for those who can claim back what they've had to pay out."

A decision on bus passes by the Advocate-General of the European Court on a case against Wrekin district council, *Stropshire*, is expected this month. Some councils issue the free passes to women at 60 but make men wait till 65. Maurice Oldfield,

chairman of the Campaign for Equal State Pension Ages, which is funding the case with the Association for Retired Persons over 50, said: "The Advocate-General's opinion on the bus pass case was due on 12 October but has been delayed — apparently because he was waiting for the full court's decision in the prescription charge case. We now expect it later this month." He said the cases were based on the same principle.

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Official Solicitor defends decision to commission book on behalf of Gloucester builder's children

Major criticises West biography deal as 'extremely distasteful'

By RICHARD DUCES

A DEAL brokered by the Official Solicitor on behalf of the children of Frederick and Rosemary West for a biography of their father was branded as "extremely distasteful" by the Prime Minister yesterday.

Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, told Mr Major at Question Time in the Commons that the proceeds of any such book should go not to members of the West family but to the families of the alleged victims in the case.

Mr Major said the Official Solicitor's action was not a matter for the Government, but added: "Personally, I share your feelings about this matter."

Peter Harris, the Official Solicitor, acting on behalf of Frederick West's estate, has commissioned a "definitive" account of the Gloucester builder's life, drawing on

statements he made to police and an attempt he made at an autobiography before he was found hanged in prison. Proceeds from the book, reported to be a six-figure sum, are to be shared among the Wests' younger children.

Mr French, whose constituency covers the Wests' former home at 25 Cromwell Street, said earlier that he found the deal "sick and distasteful". He accused Mr Harris of acting in a mercenary manner.

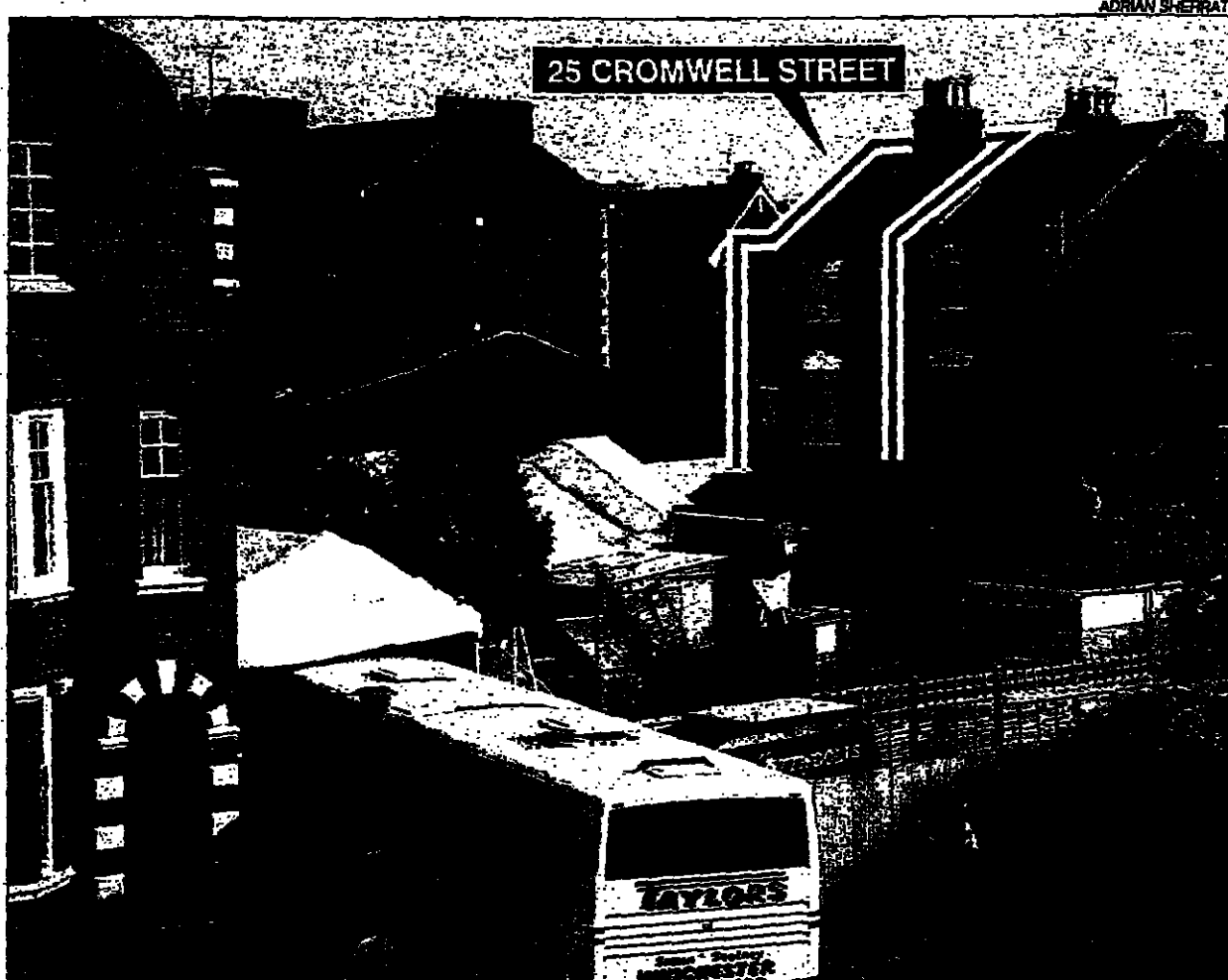
The Official Solicitor represents the interests of children, the mentally ill and anyone else deemed incapable of defending their legal rights. He is appointed by the Lord Chancellor, but once in office is answerable only to judges, and not to the Government.

After Mr Major's comment, Mr Harris's office issued a statement to defend his role in the book deal. "He felt that, as

administrator of the estate, he had an overriding duty to protect the financial interest of the five minor children. If he did not take this action he could be open to criticism or claim for financial compensation." The three adult children were already involved in their own deals with newspapers.

"As administrator, it is the Official Solicitor's duty to gather in the assets of the estate and ensure that the best value is obtained for them in the interests of the beneficiaries," his office said.

The biography, planned for next year, is to be published by Hodder Headline. Alan Brooke, the non-fiction publishing editor, said: "There will be a number of other books about West and the case, but I feel this is the only one that will tell the whole story inside the mind of this extraordinary man."



The coach carrying the jury heads towards the marquee covering the garden of the Wests' former home

Jury sees where bodies lay

By BILL FROST

WEARING hard hats and overalls, the Rosemary West trial jury toured the semi-detached house in Gloucester yesterday where the bodies of nine of her ten alleged victims were unearthed. Mrs West, who denies the charges against her, did not make the journey to 25 Cromwell Street.

The jury was shown the cellar where the remains of five young women were found. They also saw the bathroom beneath which the body of Lynda Gough was discovered, and the garden where the remains of three more bodies were found, among them those of Mrs West's daughter, Heather.

The jury spent almost 40 minutes being shown around the house in pairs. The trial had earlier ruled that the tour should be carried out in silence. Mr Justice Mantell said it was wrong that there should be discussion of the evidence unless all 12 were together. The trial continues.

Linda McCartney embarrassed by fatty burgers

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

LINDA MCCARTNEY promised stricter controls yesterday on vegetarian food bearing her name after thousands of packs of burgers were found to contain twice as much fat as advertised.

Mrs McCartney said the products would be checked to make sure the error was not repeated. "I am mad about it, it really upset me and in fact I am still getting over it — and the fact that it has my name on it is just so annoying."

The burgers were taken off shop shelves by Ross Young, the Grimsby-based manufacturer, which insisted there was no risk to health.

The excess fat content was exposed by researchers on the ITV television programme *The Big Story*. Three batches of the burgers, which cost £1.49 for a pack of six, showed fat contents of between 20 per cent and 22.7 per cent, against the advertised 11.2 per cent.

Mrs McCartney said consumers had nothing to fear

from the fat levels in her foods. "Number one, it is not saturated fat — which animal fat is — and number two, it still has less fat than the equivalent animal products, and number three, I never said that my products are slimming products. They are just good home-cooking."

Linda McCartney's beefless burgers are the latest addition to the 17 vegetarian products manufactured by Ross Young under her name, which have annual sales of £35 million, about a third of the £100 million market in meat-free frozen meals. Ross Young, a division of the multinational United Biscuits, began selling Mrs McCartney's porkless sausages, meatless pies and chickenless Kiev's four years ago after she wrote a successful vegetarian cookery book. It was unable to say yesterday how the error was made.

It is not the first time Mrs McCartney's brands have been found wanting. In 1993 Ross Young was fined £2,250 after admitting three offences of falsely labelling goods when pies containing meat were found in boxes labelled "suitable for vegetarians".

The healthy image of ready-made vegetarian foods was questioned in a report published yesterday by the Food Commission, an independent consumer watchdog, which found that 17 of 21 popular brands of vegetarian burgers and sausages derived more than 50 per cent of their calories from fat. Sue Dibb, its co-director, said the fattiest sausages derived 82 per cent of their calories from fat and cost more per kilogram than prime steak.



McCartney defended contents of her brands

Army's foul footballers face the glasshouse

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Army may maintain firm discipline on the parade ground, but on the football field soldiers are now indulging in the worst excesses of their civilian counterparts.

The verbal abuse and indiscipline have become so bad that hundreds of qualified army football referees are handing in their badges. Of the 600 referees affiliated to the Army Football Association, fewer than half have registered for this season.

Major Kevin Reardon, chairman of the Army Football Association referees' committee, said that, unless the new trend of abusing the referee stopped, the system of red and yellow cards might have to be replaced by

punishment in the military prison at Colchester.

Speaking to the Army's magazine *Soldier*, Major Reardon said that the two principal reasons given by referees for throwing in the towel were the abuse they regularly received from players and the lack of support from their units.

He said that in the near future there would not be enough referees to cope with the number of matches. "Traditionally in football, rank on the field tends to go by the board," he said. "But if trends continue it will only be a matter of time before referees abandon red and yellow cards for the good old-fashioned glasshouse."



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Oral contraception remains safe, despite warnings to women about the dangers of thrombosis

Scare centres on Pill designed to be the safest of all

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

EXPERIENCE has shown that the Pill is very safe in spite of yesterday's warning to some users to switch to safer brands. But it is taken by so many millions of women that even very rare side-effects are detected. As a result, the different versions can be compared with maximum rigour.

The irony of the latest scare is that the seven brands which women are being advised to avoid were originally introduced because they were believed to be safer. The effect unearthed by statistics was unexpected and unexplained.

The first Pill was invented

by Dr Gregory Pincus, of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Massachusetts, and Dr John Rock, of Harvard. Clinical trials began in 1956 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the first Pill was marketed in 1960 in the United States. It became available in Britain in 1961. Along with the miniskirt and the Beatles, it became a symbol of the 1960s and the key to sexual liberation.

But within a decade, doubts crept in as the first side-effects emerged. Blood clots were found in the veins of the legs of users. The scare caused thou-

sands of women to abandon the Pill.

Since then, the Pill has been refined in a continuous process of evolution. Research has been aimed at reducing the dose of the hormones to the minimum necessary to achieve contraception, and it has fallen by a factor of more than seven since the first Pill went on trial.

The versions involved in yesterday's alert are "combined" pills, so called because they contain two synthetic hormones, progesterone and oestrogen. The aim is to simulate the high levels of natural hormones that are reached during pregnancy, and to prevent ovulation taking place.

All combined pills do this successfully, making them reliable. A range of different progesterone have been used: the commonest are desogestrel, gestodene, levonorgestrel, ethynodiol and norethisterone. All simulate the action of the natural hormone progesterone.

Laboratory research in the 1980s found that the last three of these could cause small changes in the lipids (fats) in the blood. Lipid levels are known to be linked to the risk of heart attacks, so the impli-



Connie Smith of the Family Planning Association yesterday. She appealed to women not to panic and leave themselves at risk of becoming pregnant

cation was that Pills containing any of these three might increase the risks, especially in women with other risk factors such as smoking.

As a result, new formulations containing desogestrel and gestodene grew in favour. But the evidence from two studies, so far unpublished, has shown that these Pills in fact increase the risks of thrombosis, the formation of blood clots in the veins and arteries that can travel to the lungs or cause a stroke or

heart attack. The risk is small, and it is open to argument. Manufacturers were claiming yesterday that the warnings were unjustified.

Exactly how these particular formulations cause an increased risk of thrombosis is not yet clear, but may have something to do with the way in which the two hormones in them combine.

No similar risk has been found in other types of combination Pill containing a different type of progesterone, or in

progesterone-only pills. The newly identified risks must be kept in perspective. Overall, the evidence is that the Pill is very safe, as well as effective.

Women on the Pill actually have a reduced risk of some diseases, including cervical cancer and endometriosis. In addition, they are protected against the dangers of pregnancy, which are several times greater than any risk attaching to the Pill.

Safety warning, page 1

Clinics urge users not to panic

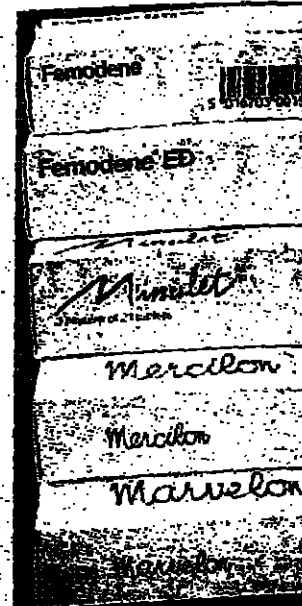
By Catherine Milton

THOUSANDS of women anxious for reassurance about the Pill rang an advice line set up yesterday by one of the largest family planning clinics.

Staff at the Margaret Pyke Centre in central London said they were trying to prevent a wave of anxiety turning into a panic. They emphasised the risks of suddenly stopping the Pill and insisted that the increased risk of thrombosis from some Pills was slight.

Dr Connie Smith of the Family Planning Association appealed to women not to panic. "There are 1½ million women taking the Pills affected by the warning—and we can't see them all at once. We would be extremely grateful if women carried on with their current cycle and sought medical advice. If they can't carry on their contraceptive protection is going to stop the night they take their last Pill. Unplanned pregnancies following previous Pill scares have caused a lot of problems."

"We are very concerned that women know what the risks are but we don't want to frighten anyone off. The risks of thrombosis are ten times higher in pregnancy and it's



Some of the Pills implicated yesterday

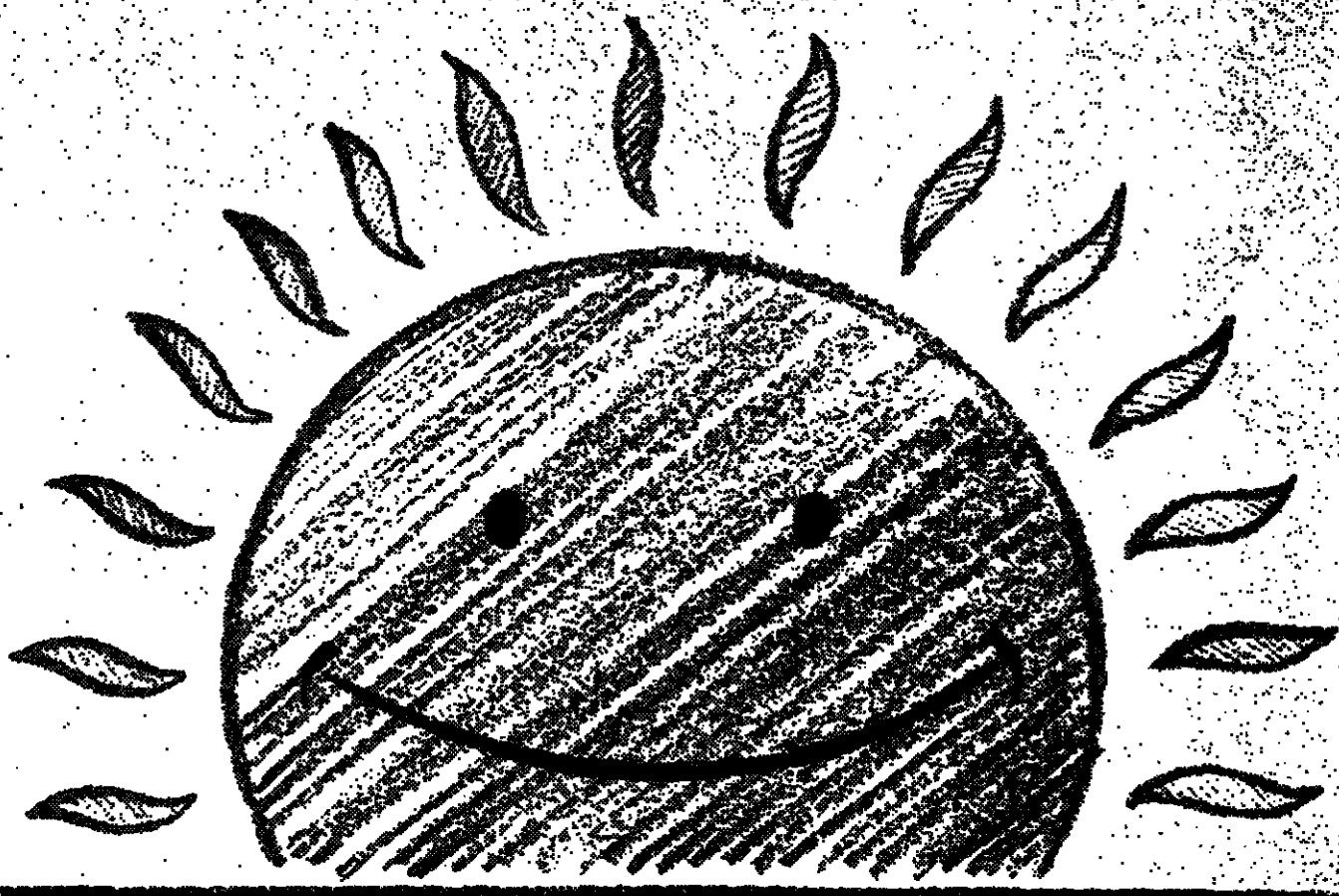
very important that women should understand that. Sister Sarah Raynor, clinical nursing specialist at the Margaret Pyke Centre, said: "There are people out there who are worried that they might die. We have had some hysterical calls from people who are very distressed."

Patients in the waiting room greeted the Government's warning with a mixture of concern and resignation. Carol Hudson, 35, who works in the leisure industry, said she had been taking Marvelon, one of the Pills associated with the increased risk, for about two years. "I knew there was a risk of thrombosis anyway, but this new scare does worry me because it means that doctors were not aware of the increased risk at the time it was prescribed for me."

CONTRACEPTION

- Three million British women take the Pill (a quarter of all those seeking to avoid conception).
- Half of those take the brands now believed to increase risks of thrombosis: Minulet, Tri-Minulet, Femodene, Femodene (ED), Triadene, Marvelon and Mercilon.
- Apart from sterilisation or coitus, the Pill is the most reliable form of contraception, responsible for only two to three unwanted pregnancies a year for every 100 users.
- The Pill is known to reduce the risks of some diseases, including ovarian cancer and endometriosis.
- The first Pill scare, in 1969, linked its use to blood clots in the veins of the legs.
- There are three types of Pill: progesterone-only, combined (oestrogen plus progesterone) and phased, in which proportions vary during the monthly cycle.

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Future is looking brighter for children with cystic fibrosis



THE McKay family, who lost one of their sons in the Falklands, where he was posthumously awarded the VC, has again been hit by tragedy. Both Sergeant Ian McKay's remaining brothers have died of cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is inherited as a recessive trait, which means that both the parents of the McKay boys must have been carrying the gene. The gene is present in about 5 per cent of the population, and genetic screening will detect about 75 per cent of these carriers. Cystic fibrosis is five times more common in white rather than black races, and there is a suggestion that the Celts are particularly at risk, as possibly in the McKay case. It is the most common potentially lethal hereditary disease that affects Caucasians.

The essential feature of cystic fibrosis is an increased stickiness of mucus secretions. Nearly all the exocrine glands are involved, and damage to other organs, particularly the

lungs, follows once ducts and airways become blocked.

Children who later develop chronic lung disease are in fact born with healthy lungs, but chest infections are such a noticeable feature of their early life that a diagnosis of cystic fibrosis is often made early in infancy because of chronic cough and pneumonia. Cystic fibrosis is now the most common cause of recurring pneumonia in young children, and any child who suffers that way is usually tested to exclude the disease.

In later life, men with cystic fibrosis are frequently infertile because of obstruction to the vas deferens, which achieves the same effect that a vasectomy would have done in adult life; women's fertility too may

be affected by abnormally sticky cervical secretions.

The future for children with cystic fibrosis is constantly improving. The introduction of antibiotics revolutionised the outlook; before they were available, patients tended to die in early childhood. Now 90 per cent of children reach adulthood and most survive into their late 20s; many live well beyond this into early middle age. Appropriate enzyme supplements, as well as treating secondary lung disease, will help pancreatic insufficiency and research continues into ways of making the mucus secretions less sticky.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

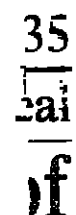
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BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Nicholas Baker, page 20



BY ALAN HAMILTON

She finds it unacceptable that Polo should claim to

Leading article, page 21

Commuters face long delays on the M4 for the next five months because of surface repairs between junctions six and nine eastbound. Traffic between Reading and Slough was at a standstill for 12 miles yesterday as contractors started work.

By TIM JONES

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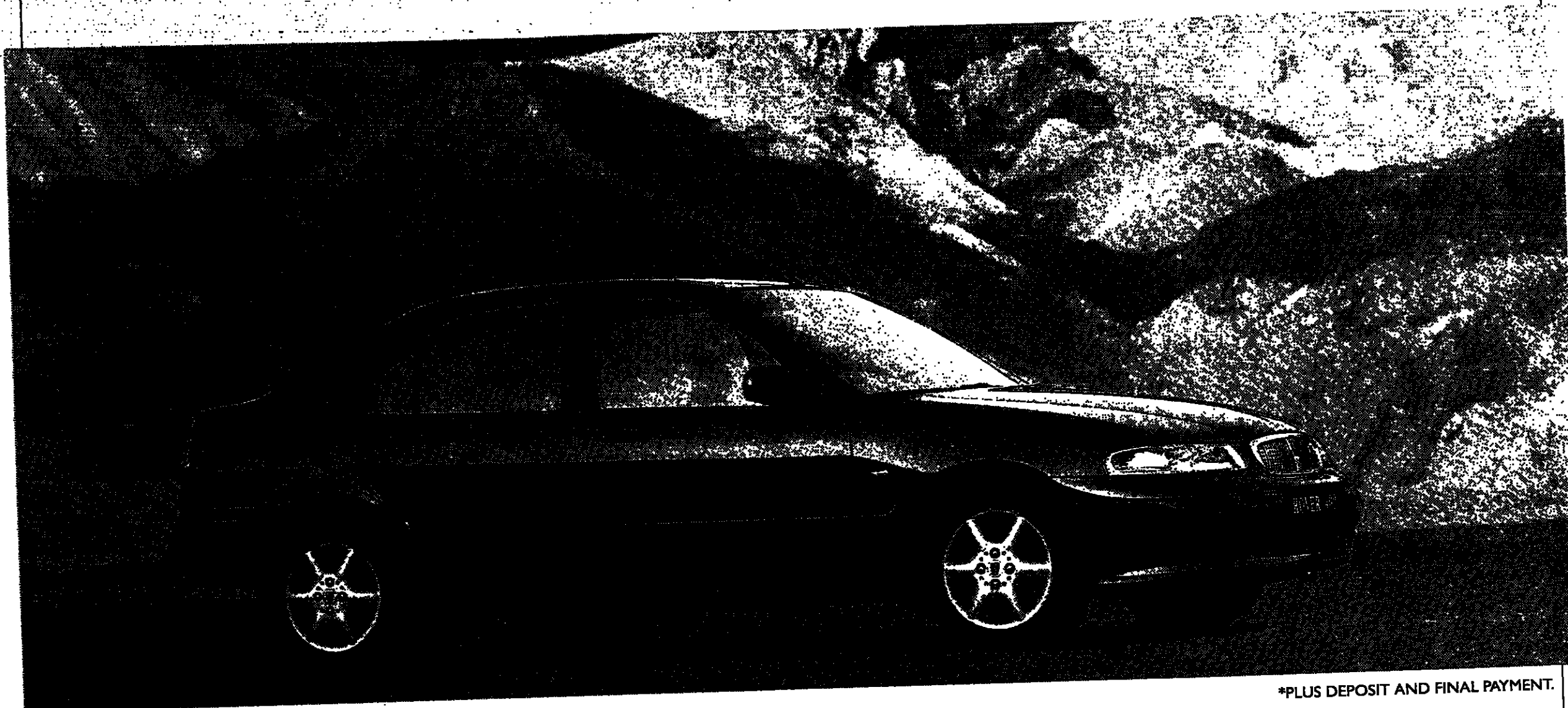
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ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER

Consumer safety staff 'to be halved'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

STAFF cuts at the Consumer Safety Unit could lead to an increase in the number of deaths and injuries caused by unsafe products, Labour said yesterday.

Leaked documents from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) show plans to halve the unit's staff to about 15. Their work includes checking baby furniture, electrical goods and fireworks.

Specialist work will be farmed out to other parts of the DTI that lack specific consumer safety expertise, according to Nigel Griffiths, the Shadow Consumer Minister. He said: "This is a sinister attempt to demote consumer protection." The Consumers' Association is also worried about the future of the unit.

The DTI said staff were being consulted on how work was organised and there would be no reduction in the overall staff effort on consumer safety.

Shadow Cabinet elections bring major shake-up

Blair stamps his authority on Labour's front bench

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR began a ruthless shake-up of his frontbench team last night by sacking seven shadow ministers to make way for high-flyers from the whips' office and the Labour back benches.

Mr Blair is determined to redress the balance of Wednesday night's Shadow Cabinet elections, which resulted in surprisingly high votes for "old Labour" MPs and poor votes for the party modernisers.

Those MPs the Labour leader had been most keen to promote, such as Brian Wilson, Alistair Darling and Nick Brown, failed to get onto the Shadow Cabinet while Harriet Harman's vote fell sharply and Jack Cunningham lost his place.

Mr Blair put the best gloss on the elections by promoting his allies and demoting more traditionalist MPs in yesterday's reshuffle. Chris Smith, Harriet Harman and Clare Short all gained top jobs while Michael Meacher, who has embarrassed the leadership over his handling of

rail privatisation, was demoted.

In an effort to stamp his authority on the front bench, Mr Blair dismissed seven MPs and was said last night to be planning to sack at least three more evening in what was already being described as "the night of the long knives".

He was forced to make more Shadow Cabinet changes than he expected after Dr Cunningham's surprise exit and the re-election of Tom Clarke, who lost his seat last year.

This gave him the opportunity to promote Clare Short, newly elected to the Shadow Cabinet to become the first woman to take over the transport portfolio since Barbara Castle in 1965.

Ms Short replaces Michael Meacher, who has been demoted to work as Shadow Employment Minister under David Blunkett, who has the newly merged education and employment portfolio.

Although Mr Meacher, who was said to have firmly resisted the move, still has a

Shadow Cabinet place, it is clear that Mr Blunkett will take the lead in shadowing Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary. Leadership sources last night tried to play down any snub by insisting that despite the merger, employment remained a key issue for Labour.

Ian McCartney, as Mr Meacher's deputy will take responsibility for the minimum wage and the social chapter.

Donald Dewar was confirmed as Chief Whip, a job which Mr Blair considers one of the most important in his Shadow Cabinet, while Margaret Beckett moves from health to take over from Jack Cunningham at Trade and Industry.

As expected Chris Smith is promoted from national heritage to social security, while Harriet Harman takes over from Mrs Beckett at health.

Most of the key posts remain unchanged but Mr Blair has moved two portfolios out

of the Shadow Cabinet and created a new one. Jack Cunningham takes on the national heritage job, Derek Foster, who stood down as Chief Whip earlier this year becomes Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to shadow Roger Freeman, and Andrew Smith retains his present post as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Clarke, who retains his responsibility for disabled people's rights, is a leftwinger who benefited from fierce vote-trading by MPs of the Campaign Group. He was said to have demanded a better job from Mr Blair, but after an acrimonious meeting was turned down.

Over the next few days Mr Blair will complete his full frontbench reshuffle. Peter Mandelson, Geoff Hoon, Barbara Roche, Stephen Byers and Estelle Morris, who entered the whips' office last October, are all tipped for promotion to departmental jobs.

Leading article, page 21



Transport duo set for safe-seat battle

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Transport Secretary and his Minister of State are to fight each other in the selection battle for a new and safe Tory seat.

John Watts has taken the unprecedented step of challenging his boss at the Transport Department, Sir George Young, for the right to stand at the next general election for Maidenhead in Berkshire.

Mr Watts, MP for Slough since 1983, decided to apply for the new seat two weeks ago, several months after senior members of the local party invited him to do so. Sir George, whose Basingstoke seat disappears under the boundary changes, applied in the summer.

Mr Watts's majority of 514 at Slough is made even more precarious by the boundary changes and is likely to be overturned by Labour.

In an interview with the *Slough and Langley Observer*, Mr Watts said he did not want to leave Slough and had not ruled out standing there. However, he recognised that the seat "has always been and always will be" a marginal seat. He added: "Changes in the constituency boundaries

do not make it any easier."

Mr Watts denies deserting his constituents. "I have a lot of friends in Slough in all parties and all parts of the community but it is not as if I am upping sticks and going to another part of the country."

Although more than 200 people have applied for the seat, local Tories have whittled down the number and are now interviewing possible candidates, said also to include the former Chancellor Norman Lamont. The seat was formed when Windsor and Maidenhead was split in two by the Boundary Commission. Michael Trend, the sitting MP, has been selected for Windsor.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister. Statements on Commons business and the European Court of Justice ruling on prescription charges. Labour-initiated debate on the Prison Service followed by a debate on the 25th anniversary of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. In the Lords: debate on Town and Country Planning (Cost of Inquiries) Bill and Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill.

TODAY in the Commons: debate on science and technology. The House of Lords is not sitting.

Right-wing ex-minister to stand for 1922 job

By NICHOLAS WOOD

BOB DUNN, the right-wing Tory MP for Dartford, is to challenge Sir Marcus Fox for the chairmanship of the 1922 Committee in next month's annual poll of the party's backbenchers.

The former Education Minister will base his campaign on the need for a stronger backbench voice in the party's inner sanctums. He is expected to announce his candidature on Monday.

About half the 18-strong 1922 executive, including most of the office holders, are not standing at the next election. Sir Marcus, 68, MP for Shipley, has not declared his intentions but there is speculation that he plans to retire.

Mr Dunn's friends said yesterday that as an experienced member of the executive he was well placed to ensure a smooth transition from the present executive to the one that will be elected in the new Parliament. Tory MPs would be ill-served if the six office holders had little or no experience of dealing with ministers and Government whips.

They added that Mr Dunn would prove a better champion of the rank and file in such horse-trading and would not hesitate to confront high-handed ministers.

Mr Dunn, 49, is said to believe that the party establishment needs to be more responsive to backbench opinion, and that Labour is not vulnerable to a populist tax-cutting agenda with scepticism on Europe and a tough approach to law and order. He is likely to win support from younger MPs frustrated by the old guard's reluctance to criticise ministers.

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Notice of the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of Shareholders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries Limited will be held at Suite 4000, 1 Place Ville Marie, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4H4 on Tuesday the 28th day of November 1995 at 11:30 a.m. for the following purposes:

1. to receive and consider the report of the Directors and the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and its subsidiaries for the year ended June 30, 1995 together with the report of the Auditors thereon;
2. to elect Directors;
3. to appoint Auditors and to authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration;
4. to amend the Articles of the Corporation as described in the Management Proxy Circular; and
5. to transact such other business as may be transacted at an Annual Meeting.

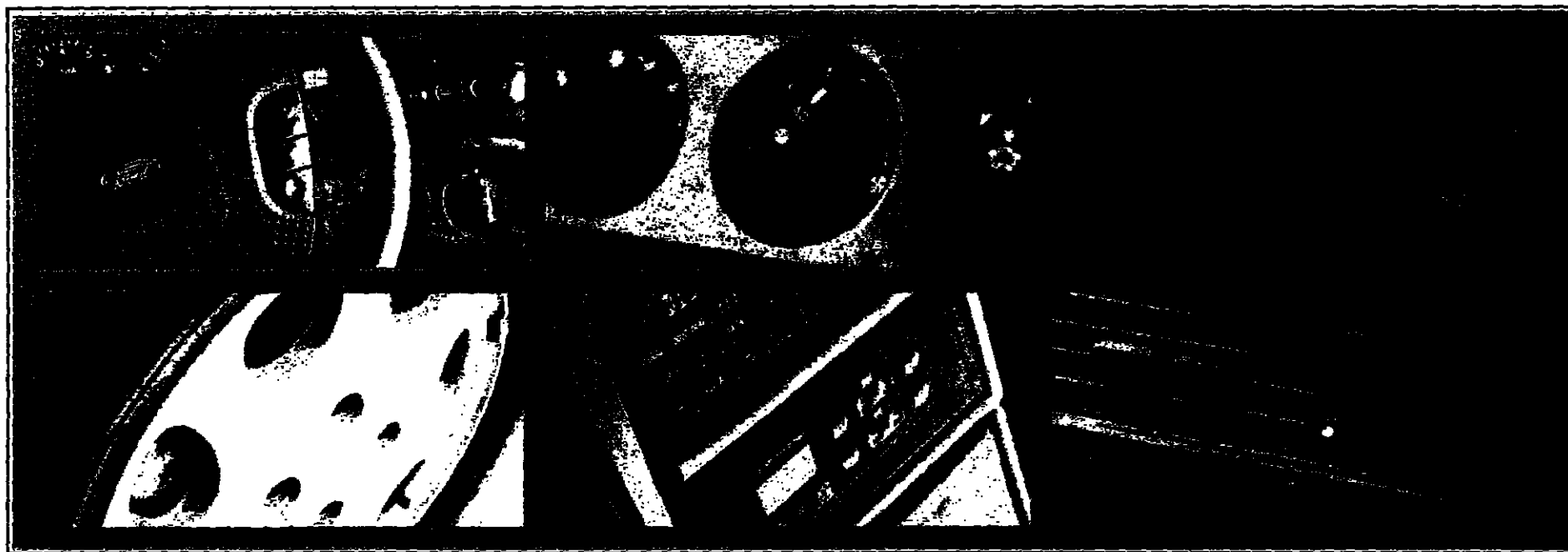
Shareholders who are entitled to attend the foregoing Meeting are requested to complete and return their form of proxy to the address stated on the form at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the said Meeting.

Declaration of Dividend: The Directors have declared the following dividend payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on November 17, 1995:

Common Shares - Dividend \$0.57
65 Canadian cents per share for the year to June 30, 1995. (The comparative figure for 1994 is 65 Canadian cents).

The payment date for the dividend is December 8, 1995. The dividend will be paid in the customary currency, subject to the registered address of a Shareholder in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation.

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Home Secretary mounts vigorous defence and denounces 'cheap and tawdry' politics

Howard accuses Blair of demeaning his office

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL HOWARD, accused Labour of "a cheap and tawdry attempt to make petty party political capital out of the difficulties of the Prison Service" yesterday as he defended himself against criticism over the sacking of the service's Director-General.

After reading the "devastating" Learmont report, it was impossible for him to overlook the serious charges contained in it. He had to agree, he said, that a change of leadership was required at the top to address what General Learmont described as shortcomings in leadership, operations and security.

Mr Howard went on to tell Tony Blair, the Labour leader, that he had "demeaned his office by allowing it to be used as a vehicle for the spleen of a bitter man". After his speech he sat down to a five-minute ovation from Tory backbenchers.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, opened the emergency debate by accusing Mr Howard's actions and accused the Home Secretary of "following a constitutional fiction" in trying to separate responsibility for policy from operational matters. "Virtually everyone associated with the Prison Service has palpa-

ble lost confidence in you. Is it any wonder that the service is in crisis. It has no effective leadership," he said.

"The Secretary of State provides name, indeed he doesn't even pretend to provide any because he says he is not responsible for the operation of the service."

As Mr Howard's wife, Sandra, and John Marriot, the sacked former governor of Parkhurst prison looked on nervously from the gallery, Mr Straw told MPs that the difference between operational and policy responsibility, meant, "in the damning words of the Chief Inspector of Prisons... that the Home Secretary is not responsible for anything at all. That means the Home Secretary takes the credit but is free of any responsibility."

Tory backbenchers continually intervened to back up the Home Secretary and heckle Mr Straw. Bernard Jenkin, Tory MP for Colchester North, asked Mr Straw whether he would have dismissed the Director-General, Derek Lewis, or not. Mr Straw said that was not an issue for the House. "The issue before the House is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for running the prison service,"

he said. Mr Straw said Sir John Learmont's report into the Parkhurst escapes was "replete with criticism of political involvement in the operation of the service. It prescribes a recipe for total confusion for which this Secretary of State is responsible."

Iain Duncan-Smith, (Con, Chingford) said that the

All the decisions were made by the Director-General

Learmont report branded Mr Lewis as "arrogant and incompetent" and he asked Mr Straw if he agreed with this assessment. Mr Straw replied: "The arrogance and incompetence is the Secretary of State's."

"What you have continually sought to do is to evade your responsibility for the proper running of the Prison Service."

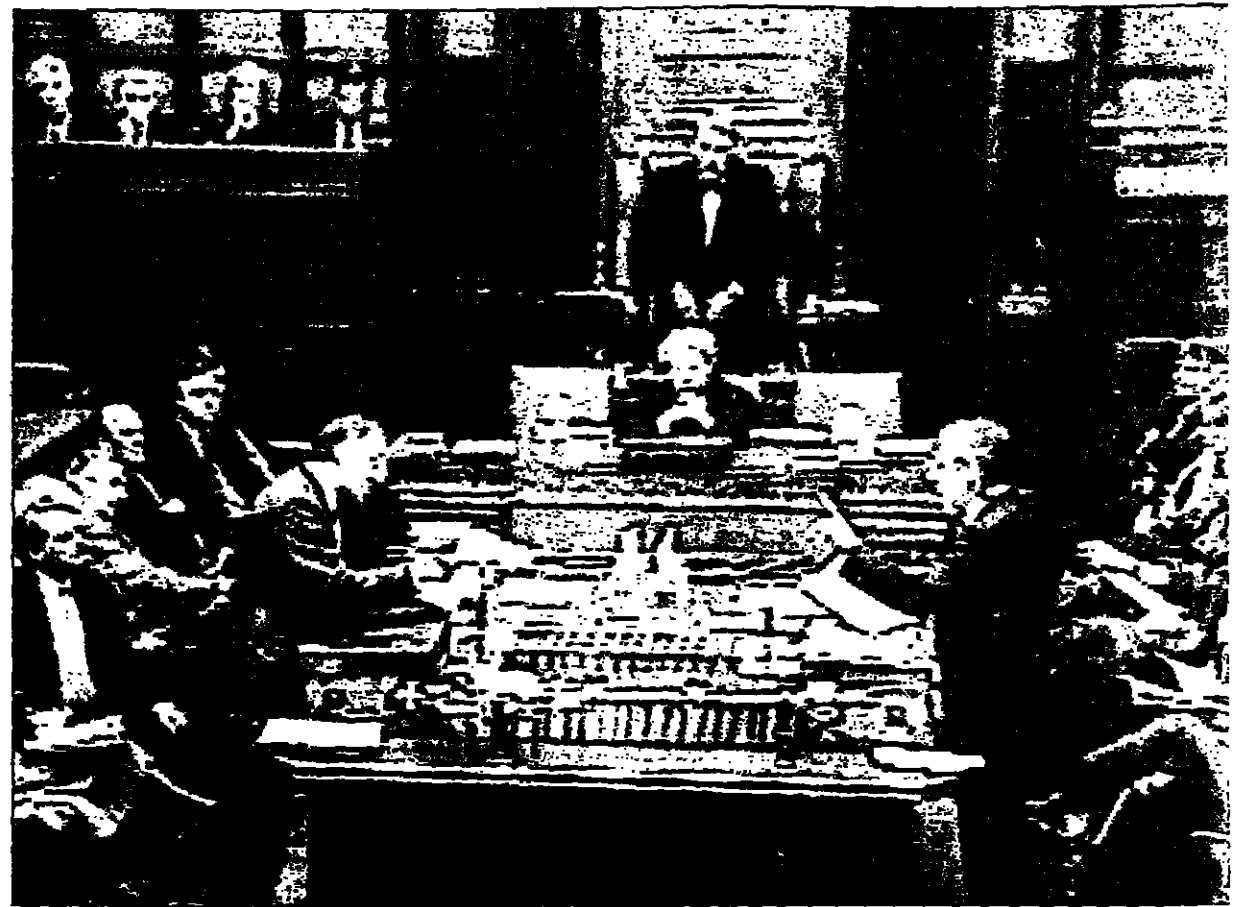
Mr Straw went on to give details of the minutes of the meeting on January 10 in which Mr Lewis and Mr

Howard discussed what action to take over the future of Mr Marriot. "What these minutes show, for all the bluster of the members opposite, is that the Secretary of State raised the issue of suspension. They are entirely consistent with Mr Lewis's allegations."

Mr Howard intervened to say that the allegations were entirely without substance. "I want to make it very clear that I now specifically accuse the Right Honourable Gentleman of misleading the House this afternoon."

Mr Straw said that Mr Howard, in one answer after another, had denied that he sought to intervene in two operational decisions made by Derek Lewis. "These minutes show beyond any question that the Secretary of State did indeed raise this matter and told Mr Lewis that he wanted Mr Marriot suspended and not transferred."

He challenged Mr Howard: "Did he or did he not seek to change Mr Lewis's mind? He added that the minutes corroborated Mr Lewis's account of the meeting. "We believe that he did indeed raise the issue of suspension and told the Director-General that the Secretary of State has got to



Mr Howard, left, facing Mr Straw against the dispatch box during the Prison Service debate yesterday

explain why that is not the case."

Mr Straw said that the affair centred on more than just the employment of one individual. "It goes to the heart of whether this country should be governed by ministers who are ready to tell the truth, and the whole truth, of the conduct of their high office, whether they are properly to

hold themselves responsible for the decision in which they are involved."

Mr Howard was asked by John Reid (Lab Motherwell) who asked whether he had insisted that Mr Marriot be removed on January 10. Mr Howard replied: "No I didn't. The answer is no because all the decisions that were made that day were made

by the Director-General."

The Home Secretary said the official note of the meeting on January 10 recorded that he had considered there were serious charges against Mr Marriot and that he agreed with Mr Lewis's analysis that Mr Marriot could not stay as Parkhurst governor.

To Tory cheers, Mr Howard insisted: "I was entitled to be

consulted by Mr Lewis about this important matter, and was. I was entitled to discuss the action which it was proposed to take, and I did. I was not entitled to give instructions - I did not. It was the Director-General who decided that the governor should move - he was."

After repeated taunts from the Tory benches, Mr Blair rose to the dispatch box and asked: "Is it true or is it not that the suggestion that he removed that day came from the Director-General but from the Home Secretary?"

Why don't you allow the who received the instruction Miss Philippa Drew and A Marriot, to give evidence as to what they were told by the Home Office and allow the civil servants at the meeting January 10 also to give evidence?"

Mr Howard replied: "The intervention by the Leader of the Opposition casts the most serious questions on his judgment." He said he had already answered Mr Blair's allegations in the course of the debate. As Tory MPs continued cheering, one shouted out "It's a massacre!"

PETER RIDDELL

Leading article, page

Fluent advocate savours his parliamentary triumph

Michael Howard was always likely to survive yesterday's Commons debate on prison security because he has retained the support of Tory MPs. In the event, he enjoyed a parliamentary triumph, at least in the eyes of his own supporters. "The political side of the Derek Lewis affair should now be over, though there are many legal issues, and questions remain about the relations between ministers and civil servants and the heads of executive agencies."

Yesterday's debate was at two levels: the theatrical, which the Home Secretary won comfortably, and the substantive, where the issue was more evenly balanced. Mr Howard displayed all his powers as

a fluent advocate, and was aided by the Tories' saloon-bar tendency, who were at their boorish worst. They successfully disrupted Jack Straw, who was never able to make his charge sheet amount to a damning indictment. It sounded more like a series of minor objections open to the type of specious tit-for-tat exchanges which MPs enjoy and which so appal the public.

Many Tory MPs in the chamber yesterday anyway did not appear interested in the merits of the argument and were merely concerned to barrack Mr Straw. Most Tories have never believed that Mr Howard did anything wrong. For them, the distinction between policy and operations is beside the point. In their view, if Mr Howard held



lengthy discussions with Mr Lewis about Parkhurst, he was right to find out what had happened in view of the evident security problems there. Mr Howard was persuasive on that.

But the Home Secretary never really answered Mr Straw's charge that he wanted the Governor of Parkhurst suspended immediately in January and made his views clear to Mr Lewis. At the very least, the line between ministerial responsibility for policy decisions and Mr Lewis's for operational matters was blurred. Yet Mr Straw was never able to make these points - or the

broader accusation of continuing ministerial interference in the affairs of prisons - stick in the face of the Tory barrage. At the end of the day, Labour - and to judge by his face Tony Blair - felt frustrated and embarrassed by the failure of their assault, while the Tories were gleeful.

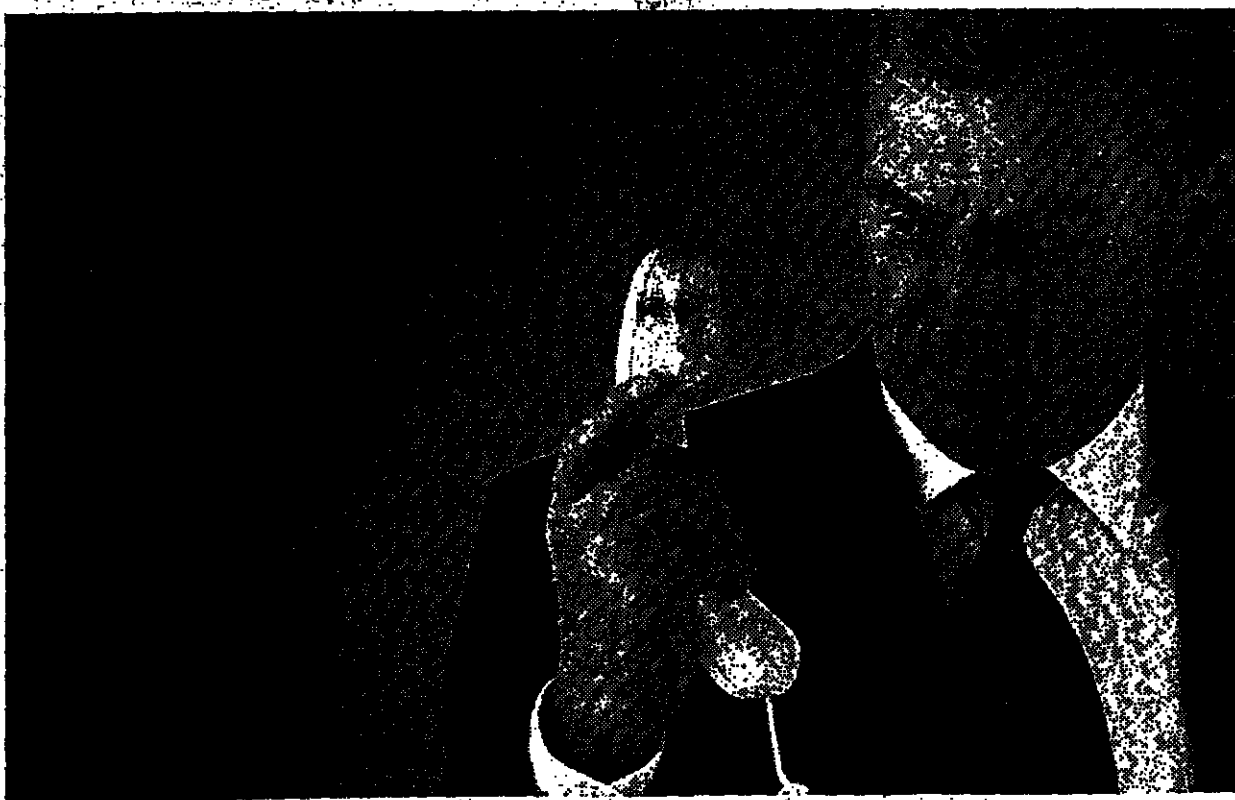
The affair has, however, exposed holes in the formal doctrine that, while ministers are both accountable and responsible to Parliament for all policy decisions, they are only accountable for the running of the prison service, with day-to-day responsibility lying with the Prison Board. It is now apparent that it is not as simple as this in practice, and probably cannot be with such a sensitive subject as prison security.

Ministers will always be pressed to say something, and hence to demand action from the Prison Board, when there is a highly publicised breakout.

These ambiguities need to be addressed explicitly rather than fudged over in the classic British way. The Treasury and Civil Service committee has argued that chief executives need to be made more transparent and clearer. Paddy Ashdown has, for instance, urged that chief executives should be made directly accountable to Parliament for service delivery. This means, he suggests, amending what are known as the "Osborne rules" to allow chief executives to appear on their own

behalf to answer questions before MPs and committees rather than just as spokesmen for ministers.

The current situation is inherently unstable because the agencies remaining in central government but semi-independent in their operations. It would be better, as Sir Peter Kemp, Graham Mather and others have argued, to put the chief executives on a proper contractual basis as an addition to the framework documents between the agencies and their sponsoring departments. All this is a long way from the demeaning yahoo politics of yesterday's debate. But it is as much part of Parliament's responsibilities as last night's vote.



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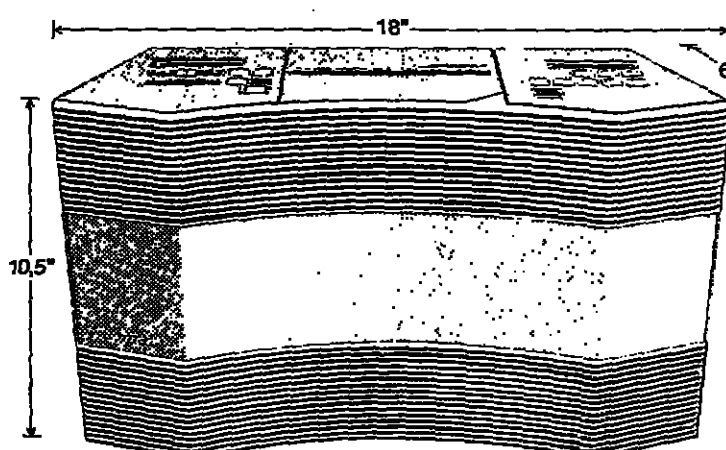
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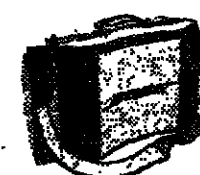
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Veto pledge to Britain as Commission chief underlines need for closer union to ensure peace



Jacques Santer, who says jobs must be created to win over the young people of Europe

Santer rejects Euro-gloom

ACCORDING to Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, Britain should make the most of a role at the heart of the European Union. And, he said, there was no need to tilt at windmills over sovereignty, as Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, did in his speech to the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool last week when he vowed that no Briton should have to die for a "Brussels army".

In an interview with *The Times* that ranged over the state of the EU, Mr Santer agreed with his friend Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who said this week that peace was not certain in Europe without further moves towards union. "An uncertain situation has been created... Our generation and the later one have to channel their efforts to ensure a durable peace," he said.

He sketched a view of union well short of that in the federalist thinking in some of the Continent's capitals, however. In spite of the tough words coming from John Major's Government, Mr Santer predicted that Britain would



Charles Bremner in Brussels finds the Commission President predicting a consensus that will keep Britain at the heart of Europe

agree to a compromise on the sensitive issue of a common foreign and defence policy at next year's review of the Maastricht treaty.

He predicted that the new Union treaty would be ready in 1997, at about the time of the next British general election or shortly afterwards.

Contrary to fears in London, he said, Britain would not be asked to give up its veto in the domain of foreign and security policy, a big sticking point for London and Paris in the run-up to the Union revamp. "There are certain areas where unanimity is required. You cannot force a member state to commit itself politically or militarily against its will or national interest," he said. "On the other hand, you cannot allow a member country to prevent others from

undertaking a role outside the Union."

His thinking referred to mechanisms now being sketched in Paris and Bonn for retaining sovereignty in the foreign and security field while unblocking the paralysis that has afflicted the Union since Maastricht.

On defence, he said, the Maastricht review would look at ways of linking Nato and the Western European Union, the Continent's defence body, with the EU. While France is keen on the eventual creation of forces under all-European command — the spectre raised by Mr Portillo — Germany, Mr Santer and others emphasised the need for Nato to continue as a central component of a future European defence.

Mr Santer expressed regret

over the Euro-sceptic shift in London announced by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and given colour by Mr Portillo. The new British rhetoric has heightened anxiety among officials already alarmed by Germany's tough new line on monetary union. "I am quite close politically to the Conservative Party, so I have a lot of friends there. I note that those friends are very disappointed," he said.

If Mr Rifkind's new doctrine on asserting British interests at the expense, if necessary, of losing Euro-influence "means following the line of Winston Churchill, then there is no problem for us," he said. "It is a question of identifying the British interests he is talking about. I consider they lie in the European Union. I would be the first to stress what Mr Major said about keeping Britain at the heart of Europe." The ease with which

"I do not think you can have a policy of opt-outs, as that leads to Europe à la carte"

the social chapter, Mr Santer said that Britain must eventually fall into line. "I do not consider that in the long term you can have a policy of opt-outs, because that leads to Europe à la carte."

Opening frontiers to free movement, another source of British objection, would eventually depend on the creation of a better internal security system, an area under review at the inter-governmental conference.

The EC President would not endorse the gloom that has infected some of his 19 Commissioners in recent weeks as serious frictions have emerged over the monetary union project.

"Never in my memory has there been such a firm political commitment as there is now to ensure the Maastricht criteria for economic convergence." The old 12-member Union never saw such a

consensus on policy. He recognised that the Union faced a big task to win favour from a disillusioned public. "We need mainly to answer the aspirations of the young. That means finding ways of creating employment

and making business more competitive and making the internal market work."

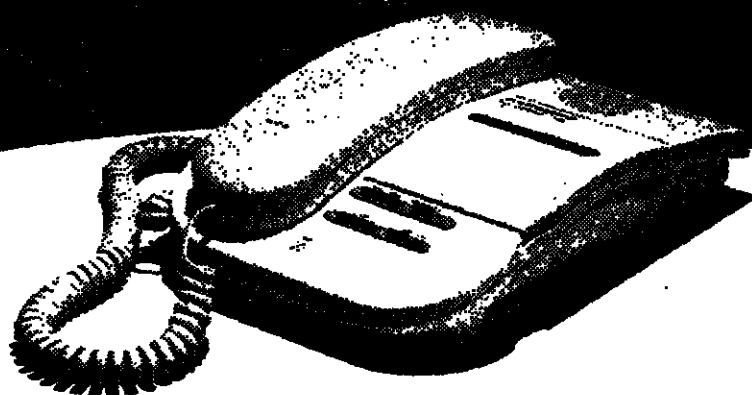
This realism, while welcome in Britain and elsewhere, is beginning to irritate more federal-minded colleagues who believe that Mr Santer's focus on good housekeeping at the expense of visionary leadership is eroding the Commission's influence.

"I am a pragmatic man," Mr Santer says, reviewing the work of his first nine months. His goals for his term, which ends in 2000, are concrete: these are making the internal market work; securing the passage to monetary union and opening the Union to the countries of the East. "I think that if we can manage all that, the mission will have been accomplished."

On London's other opt-out.

Letters, page 21

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Bonn resigned to delay in EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE Bonn Government yesterday announced that it would rather delay the introduction of European monetary union than go ahead without France.

Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, said he hoped and believed that France would reduce its budget deficit sufficiently to meet the entrance qualification for monetary union in 1999. "But if it does not make it, then it will be better to wait a year or two than to change the criteria," the minister said.

While this has been German policy for some time, it has not been quite so publicly or coherently stated by a minister. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, recently conceded that monetary union would be politically impossible without France.

The official position is one of faith in a Parisian economic miracle: the ministers are emphasising their belief that delay will be rendered unnecessary by a superhuman effort on the part of the French Government. President Chirac, who is due in Germany next week, will be urged to make a statement boosting confidence in French economic policy. Most doubts centre on France's ability to shrink

its budget deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Herr Rexrodt, speaking to the *International Herald Tribune*, said: "France is strongly committed to Europe. The French know that without European integration their country will be located on the edge of Europe."

He hoped that single currency would be achieved as soon as possible but emphasised that "one year later or sooner is not decisive. What is more important is that Maastricht criteria be maintained and that we have sanctions against EMU members who do not stick to the criteria."

The question of sanctions to enforce financial discipline after EMU entry is increasingly occupying the thoughts of German government think tanks. The Kiel Institute for World Economy yesterday said that a sanctions mechanism had to be established and written into international law.

"Penalties have to work as a deterrent, so that excessive indebtedness does not occur at all. And when a country, having lapsed, fulfils the criteria again it should get its money back," the Institute's Professor Hagen Lehmann said.

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Claes pleads with Belgian MPs to save Nato career

By CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND GEORGE BROCK

WILLY CLAES, the Nato Secretary-General, appeared before the Belgian parliament last night in a last-ditch attempt to save himself from prosecution on corruption charges and the loss of the alliance post, which he has held for only a year.

Mr Claes, 56, slipped into the chamber shortly before its 150 members began a hearing in camera of the case against him and Guy Coëme, a fellow former Cabinet member from the Flemish Socialist Party. The chamber endorsed a commission recommendation to send the case against Mr Coëme, a former Defence Minister, back to the prosecutor for further investigation.

The late-night vote by secret ballot on the Claes affair was expected to be close after a number of MPs voiced doubts over the circumstantial nature of the evidence against him. The MPs could decide to seek further investigation, a step that would prolong the agony at Nato, which has been operating for the past week in the assumption that Mr Claes's time was up.

The parliament had been widely expected to endorse the commission recommendation to lift Mr Claes's immunity and send him to trial on charges connected with alleged bribes paid by the Agusta and Dassault aviation companies to the Flemish Socialists in 1988. MPs were instructed to vote according to conscience.

Mr Claes's former Socialist colleagues, who belong to the governing coalition led by Jean-Luc Dehaene, dealt him a blow by signalling that they did not view his case as a matter of political loyalty. A vote to indict was deemed certain to force Mr Claes's resignation and launch the search for a new Secretary-General.

A sense of high drama pervaded the corridors of the 165-year-old parliament building, which was turned, under the constitution, into a judicial chamber for the hearing.

No such proceeding there had attracted so much emotion since a Baron Chazal was impeached after fighting another member in a duel a century ago, according to *Le Soir*. While party officials calculated the odds of impeachment, the Belgian public showed it wanted to turn the page on an affair that has brought the country into disrepute. A poll of 1,000 people yesterday showed that 93 per cent believed Mr Claes, a 'volatile' politician from a humble background, should resign. Only 5 per cent wanted him to stay on at Nato.

No clear candidate has emerged from a short list of likely successors circulating among governments of the 16-member alliance. Three front-runners have 'emerged' to take over if Mr Claes steps down, but the formal announcement of a job vacancy might see other candidates appear. American sources hint that if Mr Claes goes, Washington will insist on a senior political figure from a key Nato state. The two weightiest politicians whose names have been floated —

Britain's Douglas Hurd and Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister — have dismissed suggestions that they might be interested.

Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, 53, leader of the Danish opposition Liberal Party, is keen to get the job and is being discreetly pushed by Copenhagen. He is not much liked by the French and German governments, and the British and Americans fear that he may be too volatile.

Washington is afraid that a politician from a small state may not have the clout to handle the big governments if Nato hits a real crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina or any other war zone. He has one advantage over the Dutch candidates: there has never been a Danish Secretary-General, while a Dutchman has already held the job once.

Rud Lubbers is, at 56, the grand old man of Dutch politics. A Catholic Christian Democrat with a famously sharp brain and tongue, he served as Prime Minister in The Hague for a record-breaking 12 years until he stepped down in 1994. "He would only take the Nato job if it was offered to him on a plate," said one observer.

Hans van den Broek, 58, is a Dutch member of the European Commission specialising in Eastern Europe. Sober, experienced — with ten years as Dutch Foreign Minister — he has so far been lacklustre in Brussels. But he has shown interest in the Nato post and might be marginally more favoured by Bonn and Paris than his old rival, Mr Lubbers.

If Mr van den Broek were to land the Nato job, the coveted job of handling Eastern Europe in the European Commission might be up for grabs. Sir Leon Brittan was not given these duties last year and would dearly love to seize them back from his Dutch colleague.



Andrei Kozyrev has become a hated figure, accused of selling out Russian interests

Yeltsin to sack Kozyrev for his 'pro-West' views

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN signalled a further hardening of relations with the West yesterday when he announced plans to remove Andrei Kozyrev, his Foreign Minister, and vowed to resist Nato's new security role in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Eastern Europe.

At a press conference in the Kremlin, before his visit to Paris and New York at the weekend, the Russian leader emerged in combative style, sounding more like one of his nationalist opponents than the reformist figure once allied to the West.

After months of rumours, Mr Yeltsin confirmed that his longest serving minister, and one of the last liberals left in the Government, would be replaced as soon as a suitable candidate had been found.

He accused Mr Kozyrev of failing to work properly with his Cabinet colleagues. "All foreign policy issues in the Government are to be co-ordinated by the Foreign Minister... But he is unable to cope with many ministers. This is the gist of the problem," Mr Yeltsin said.

However, it is believed in Moscow that the real reason for Mr Kozyrev's dismissal

was that his perceived pro-Western stance was no longer acceptable. The Foreign Minister has become a hated figure among headline communist and nationalist leaders who accuse him of selling out Russia's interests.

While Mr Yeltsin is in charge of formulating foreign policy initiatives, and equally responsible for their failings, Kremlin watchers said that Mr Kozyrev's sacking would help to deflect criticism of his administration. Candidates tipped to succeed Mr Kozyrev, include Yevgeni Primakov, the head of foreign intelligence, Anatoli Adamishin, the Ambassador to London, and Sergei Filatov, the Chief of Staff.

Mr Yeltsin also intends to harden Russia's position regarding Nato's expansion and peacekeeping operation in Bosnia when he meets President Clinton after his address to the United Nations General Assembly.

"We propose a European security system that would exclude the expansion of Nato and the presence of nuclear weapons into the countries of Eastern and Central Europe," he said.

Algerian extremist fuels Bonn terrorist fears

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Government's fears that the bombing campaign in France will spread across the border was heightened yesterday when an Algerian extremist said Islamic militants could "rise up and fight" in Germany.

Abdelkadar Sahraoui — who has acted as an intermediary between the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the banned opposition group, and the Algerian Government — told German television that Bonn was acting as an accomplice of Algiers. He was speaking after the arrest of five Algerian fundamentalists in

Germany. The detainees included two sons of Abassi Madani, the co-founder of the FIS, who are being charged with arms smuggling offences. Mr Madani and his family have set up home near Cologne and have applied for asylum in Germany. Rabah

Kebir, the front's leader-in-exile, also lives near Cologne. France has been putting pressure on Germany to crack down on arms smuggling to Islamic groups. According to reports by the German and French security services, transmitters and communica-

tions equipment have been bought in Germany and the Czech Republic, smuggled into France and then on to Algeria. Guns, detonators and explosives have followed a similar route. Mr Sahraoui said that if Mr Madani's sons were charged,

the front would have to ask itself if Germany was co-operating in a "strategy to liquidate the Algerian opposition". If this were the case, the FIS would consider ways of "resisting", he said. Weapons procurement abroad and acts of violence in Algeria were "legitimate methods for getting rid of the junta", Mr Sahraoui said.

The comments were in marked contrast to the far more cautious public utterances of Mr Kebir, who has consistently denied the Islamic front's involvement in arms trafficking. "Our organisation is against violence. We have chosen the peaceful, political path," he said recently.

Britain aids French hunt for militants

London: Britain has stepped up police supervision of Algerian exiles and, in the past two weeks, has allowed unprecedented co-operation with French security forces hunting Islamic activists behind the spate of Paris bombings, according to British officials

(Michael Binyon writes). However, they admit there are up to 5,000 Algerian illegal immigrants in Britain — as many as live in the country legally. Only 200 regularly take part in protests. The officials confirmed that Algeria, unhappy at Britain's

use as a haven for exiled radicals, has urged a clampdown on the political activities of asylum-seekers.

President Chirac, during his visit at the end of the month, will discuss with John Major the threat posed by the Algerian conflict.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Spice Island warms to separatist's campaign call for socialist defeat

Zanzibar takes its first step on rocky road to democracy

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN ZANZIBAR

POLITICAL slogans in Swahili boomed from a loud hailer mounted on a white pick-up truck. Young men on motorcycles wearing shiny tracksuits and helmets of matching yellow and green trailed behind in the dust, revving their engines. This is electioneering, Zanzibar-style.

Yellow and green are the colours of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the socialist party founded by Julius Nyerere, the former President, which has ruled Zanzibar since the Indian Ocean island united with mainland Tanganyika to create Tanzania in 1964. But after three decades of one-party rule, the colours may be about to change. This Sunday sees the first multi-party elections for the island's parliament and presidency, seven days before polls for the whole union, and Zanzibar's incumbent President, Salim Amour, is on the ropes.

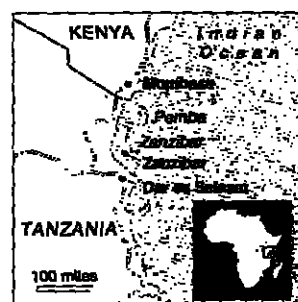
Along a potholed road lined with palm trees, a boisterous convoy snakes past crumbling shacks of mud and corrugated iron, returning triumphant from a rabble-rousing rally. The heaving mass of humanity, faces gleaming with dust, spills out of buses and lorries embellished with red and white flags, singing and clapping in unison. Inside a four-wheel drive vehicle, their chubby hero waves majestically at onlookers.

With his tight, beige safari suit and fluffy beard, Self Sharif Hamad has a rather comic appearance but many islanders appear prepared to take him seriously. The former teacher served as a minis-

ter in the Zanzibar Government but was expelled from the CCM party in 1988 when he turned critic.

Jailed on trumped-up charges the following year, his notoriety spread during 30 months' solitary confinement before the sentence was quashed. Now, under the banner of the liberal democrat Civic United Front, he stands a strong chance of leading his Zanzibar-based party to victory and ousting his former colleagues.

"The Zanzibar Government is very corrupt and it is not



concerned with the plight of the people," declared Mr Hamad, 52, delicately dabbing his huge sweaty forehead. "Under the British, this island was run efficiently. We aim to emulate that."

Also known as the Spice Island, exotic Zanzibar has lured travellers in search of trade, plunder and exquisite beaches. It was latterly governed by Omani sultans under a British protectorate from 1890 to 1963 before they were toppled after independence in a bloody uprising. Once the largest slaving entrepôt on

Africa's east coast, its colourful collection of quaint shops, mosques, cathedrals and palaces hints at the island's rich and distinctive history, which has drawn an eclectic mix of Africans, Asians and Arabs under the yoke of Islam.

That distinctiveness is reflected in separate immigration controls and legislature, which also govern Pemba, the smaller island to the north. Legislative powers, however, are limited because 21 policy areas remain in union hands. The uneasy relationship between the mainland and the islands has provoked fierce debate on autonomy and it is a central theme of the campaign: the CCM favours the present system with a national government and an island government; the United Front supports greater autonomy.

The party's separatist call, coupled with its pledges to stamp out corruption, improve healthcare and education have struck a chord with the 350,000 voters. Mr Hamad has promised to boost the flagging economy and improve public services.

Drivers lounge beneath graffiti-scarred trees on a side street listening to Mr Hamad's speeches and chanting back his every word. A few blocks away a crowd has gathered to hear local United Front candidates. Muslim women in headscarves sit in front of their menfolk, children at their feet, listening attentively. Cries of "Haki" (equal rights) from the podium are met with delight. "The people are excited because they want change," said Mu-



Zanzibaris have made autonomy from the mainland the focus of the election

hammad Ali, 42, a United Front activist. "They have had enough of lousy socialist rule."

The outcome may hang on the voters of Pemba. Mr Hamad was born there and pundits predict that his party could win at least 18 of the 21 seats and ensure outright victory with a reasonable show-

ing on Zanzibar. Mr Amour, 53, is feeling the pinch and has toured the island tirelessly, warning inhabitants that change will bring turmoil.

Tension between the parties has flared into conflict. At the weekend 27 people were injured during clashes at a United Front rally in Pemba.

For the languid islanders, this has come as a shock, and reggae-loving "beach boys" say they want the polls over with quickly. "Hey man, we don't need no fighting round here," said Eddie "The Great", slowly raising a herb-induced smile. "We just want Bob Marley elections."

Man of 81 jailed for murders and rapes

BY INIGO GILMORE

A GRANDFATHER dubbed the "Naivasha Monster" has been sentenced to life imprisonment in Kenya for multiple murders, rapes and battery over 57 years.

In a case that shocked Kenyans and made nationwide headlines, a court in Naivasha, west of Nairobi, heard that John Mulu, 81, committed a series of crimes stretching back to 1938 and culminating in his fifth murder earlier this year. He was arrested in January after slitting the throat of his son, Francis, with a sword.

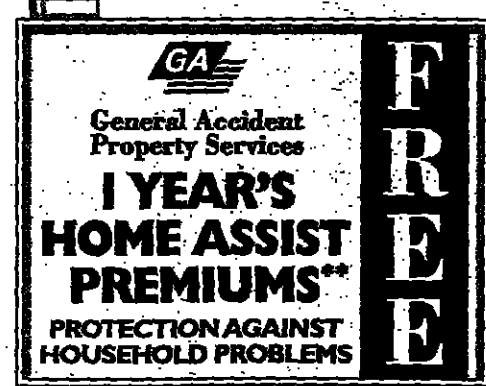
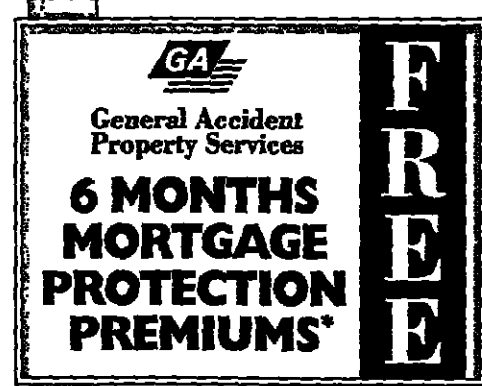
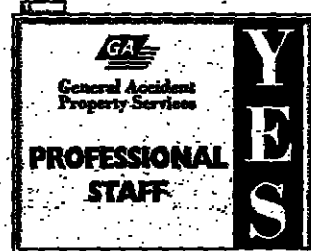
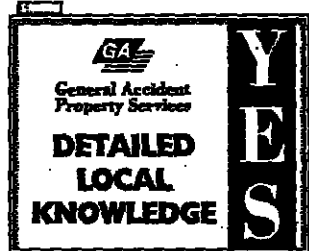
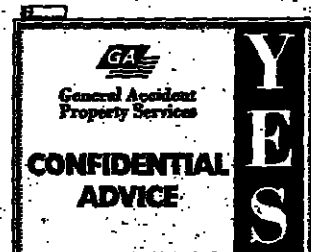
Investigations unearthed a chronology of crime with which he had previously not been linked: in 1938 he killed a shepherd in Nyahururu; ten years later, he murdered his father by binding him with rope and dragging him along a rough path; in 1953, his pregnant wife died instantly after he struck her with a stool; and two years later he starved one of his sons to death after ensuring that no one visited the home where he lived with his four children.

The other children were saved by a maternal aunt, who fled with them to Tanzania. After a lengthy trial, the Naivasha Monster re-emerged in 1989, then aged 75, and was jailed for eight months for raping a 13-year-old girl. Shortly after his release he threatened to kill a man, and residents from his town raised money and tracked down his relatives, who had secretly returned to the country.

His married son agreed to accommodate his father, but on January 8, without provocation, the old man overpowered him at his home and slit his throat. According to the court, he killed his son to erase memories of the wife he had killed 42 years earlier.

The court heard that many who knew him said he was a vicious criminal who had an insatiable lust for sex and blood. Yet many of his crimes went undetected.

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Peking's threat to neuter rights Bill fuels colony anger

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

EVEN Peking's Hong Kong allies were last night seething over shadow government plans that threaten to emasculate the colony's Bill of Rights after 1997.

The proposal was made in Peking on Tuesday by the committee of influential Hong Kong and Chinese citizens handpicked to advise on the handover of sovereignty. The group recommended that the Bill of Rights be stripped of its power to override other local laws, prompting fears that human rights would be unprotected.

The committee also wants reinstatement of laws the Hong Kong Government has revoked - including a ban on societies that have not registered with the police, and limitations on the Governor's power to forbid television and radio programmes deemed to be "disturbing", and of his right to invoke broad "emergency powers".

"I am horrified, although I have to say I'm not really surprised," said Martin Lee, a leading pro-democracy politician and lawyer.

The Preliminary Working Committee (PWC) said it made the proposal because the Bill of Rights challenges the Peking-drafted constitution covering Hong Kong when the British leave, as well as the powers of the post-1997 administration.

In Geneva yesterday, Britain came under further pres-

sure at the United Nations, as several human rights committee members questioned the strength of civil liberties legislation after 1997.

Although he welcomed the joint British-Chinese declaration, one UN committee member said several aspects of the post-1997 constitution contradicted the Bill of Rights, and would allow it to be repealed.

The committee conducts regular hearings on human rights in countries that have signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Britain contends that the joint declaration will maintain civil liberties under Chinese rule. China has not signed the international covenant.

In Geneva, a delegation from Hong Kong's Legislative Council said it feared that, without further pressure on China and Britain, the UN would not be able to monitor human rights after 1997. The UN committee is due to meet next month.

Chris Patten, the Governor, who is due in London today, repeats the "highest level" of the British Government to protest to China about the proposals. Yesterday he said: "Don't underestimate the dangers done here and abroad every time... those who advise China give the impression that, come 1997, the protection of Hong Kong's

freedom and way of life is going to be dismantled.

"That sort of statement hits every agency tape around the world. You can buy advertising space by the yard to say how wonderful Hong Kong is and is going to be, but that sort of story undoes all the good work and all the good words."

Mr Lee said that the proposals pushed the colony's rule of law to the edge of a "slippery slope". However, a spokesman for the committee said: "The Hong Kong public has been misled for years that if there is no Bill of Rights there will be no human rights in the territory." The committee says the Bill violates Peking's mini-constitution for Hong Kong after 1997.

Tsang Yok-sing, the chairman of the main Peking-orientated political party, the Democratic Alliance for a Better Hong Kong, said: "There should be no hurry in amending laws."

The Democratic Party, the largest elected Legislative Council group, thought the proposals were "a shocking blow to freedom after 1997" which "represent a real threat to Hong Kong people ruling themselves with the promised high degree of autonomy".

Mr Lee, who is party chairman, said the committee was "doing China's dirty work". He doubted whether Britain and Hong Kong would forcibly resist the undermining of the Bill.

General to leave Bosnia as peace hopes rise

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, is to leave his post early to take up a new job as the military chief in Northern Ireland. It was announced in London yesterday.

General Smith, 52, who has so far completed nine months of what is normally a one-year appointment, was commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina during one of the most eventful periods of the war.

He has avoided publicity, directing the world's media to his public relations staff. His quiet but tough approach and his support for a more comprehensive Nato bombing campaign against the Bosnian Serbs has played a key part in bringing Bosnia closer than ever to an overall peace settlement.

General Smith argued that Nato airstrikes should be backed up by more ground forces. His pressure led to the formation of a rapid reaction force armed with artillery. The placing of troops and artillery on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo was crucial in helping to lift the siege of the Bosnian capital.

General Smith is expected to leave Sarajevo within the next few weeks. Last night the Ministry of Defence praised his services, saying: "General Smith has done an excellent job in very difficult circumstances." He is to be replaced



Major-General Michael Jackson, who will take over from General Rupert Smith

by Major-General Michael Jackson, who is the commander of 3 (UK) Division, one of the units that could be chosen for providing troops for Bosnia as part of Britain's contribution towards the proposed Nato-led peace implementation force.

General Jackson, described by his senior aides as a "colourful and flamboyant character", will arrive in Bosnia at a crucial period of transition. If the peace talks,

expected to begin in Washington next month, produce an early agreement, the UN peacekeeping troops will be replaced by the more heavily armed Nato peace implementation force.

General Jackson, 51, who was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps and is a Russian speaker, transferred to The Parachute Regiment and commanded the 1st Battalion between 1982 and 1985. He was appointed General

Officer Commanding 3 (UK) Division, based at Bulford in Wiltshire, in March 1994.

Paris France last night condemned as grotesque claims by Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, that two French pilots captured seven weeks ago had been kidnapped, possibly by "Muslim terrorists" (Ben Macintyre writes). The Foreign Ministry said: "Either the two pilots are dead or else he is mocking us."

WORLD SUMMARY

Murder suspect injured

Johannesburg: A man suspected of murdering 40 women was being guarded in hospital after he was shot and wounded by South African police (Ray Kennedy writes).

It was claimed that Moses Sithole, 31, attacked the police with an axe when they closed in on his hideout in Benoni, east of here, on Wednesday night and he was shot in the arm and stomach. His condition was said to be satisfactory and police said they would question him as soon as he was fit enough to talk.

Crackdown on Aids criminals

Rome: Italy has closed a legal loophole, repeatedly exploited by a bank-robbing trio dubbed the Aids Gang, that allowed terminally-ill crooks to commit crimes with impunity.

The constitutional court in Rome has ruled that judges no longer have to set free sentenced criminals who have a terminal illness. Those awaiting trial can also be imprisoned or isolated in secure premises. (Reuter)

Italian minister defies Senate

Rome: The Senate passed a no-confidence vote in Filippo Mancuso, the Justice Minister, because of what it saw as his efforts to hamper the work of Milan magistrates combating corruption (John Phillips writes). Signor Mancuso, 73, a former judge, refused to resign after the vote; the stand-off threatens to topple Lamberto Dini's Government.

Zambia scraps Kaunda inquiry

Lusaka: The Zambian Government has dropped its investigation into whether Kenneth Kaunda, 71, the former President, ruled the country illegally as a Malawian until taking out proper citizenship. Dr Kaunda is to challenge President Chiluba in next October's elections. (Reuter)

Castro to invade New York with army of bodyguards

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

MORE than 36 years after he seized power in Cuba, President Castro will arrive in New York this weekend to an enthusiastic welcome from businessmen but can expect as much political displeasure as ever.

The United States granted Señor Castro a visa to make a rare visit for the fiftieth anniversary celebrations at the United Nations. The Cuban leader may meet the Rockefellers and

business representatives. President Clinton has invited heads of state to a reception, but Señor Castro has been left off the list.

Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, insisted that Señor Castro also be excluded from the city's reception at the World Financial Centre on Sunday night. "It's my party... I didn't want him invited," Mr Giuliani said. He cited his friendship with Cuban exiles in Miami, "whose families were tortured by Castro". However, the

respected Council on Foreign Relations is holding a lunch on Monday in the Cuban leader's honour and the Rockefeller family hopes to arrange a meeting between Señor Castro and a group of academics and businessmen. Outraged Cuban exile leaders say that they will protest against the Rockefeller party, as well as Señor Castro's speech to the United Nations earlier in the day.

The Cuban leader is due to arrive on Saturday with an entourage of 150 people, mostly bodyguards. As a

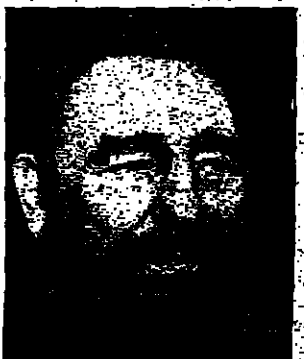
guest of the UN, he will be free to move around the city as he pleases, but only within a 25-mile radius of the city centre.

Before the 1959 Cuban revolution that swept him to power, Señor Castro visited New York several times. He spent a honeymoon there in 1948, and also raised funds in the city for his rebel army.

It is only his second appearance in America since he shocked New York during a theatrical visit in 1960. Complaining about hotel prices, the

Cuban delegation checked out of one hotel, leaving rooms scarred by cigar and cigarette burns, and moved into a rundown hotel in Harlem. Señor Castro then lectured the UN General Assembly in a speech that lasted four and a half hours. He addressed the body again in 1979, speaking for a more modest two hours.

While nations across the world disapprove of Cuba's one-party communist system, they also increasingly reject the American policy of aggressively seeking to isolate Cuba.



Castro: barred from Clinton's reception

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Maoris welcome return of land

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO
IN WELLINGTON

MAORI tribal representatives sang, wept and applauded in the New Zealand parliament's public gallery yesterday as a law redressing a 132-year-old land grievance with the Crown was approved.

The Queen will sign the Bill during a visit to New Zealand next month. The dispute has simmered since the British colonists confiscated vast areas of Maori land last century.

Under the £70 million deal, the Tainui Federation of Tribes in the North Island's Waikato region will be given back 38,000 acres of land over five years and receive £26 million.

About a million acres of Tainui land was seized to punish Maori rebels and secure a farming hinterland for Auckland after the 1863-64 Waikato War. About 150 Tainui tribal representatives, including Queen Te Arikinui Dame Te Atiangua, were in parliament yesterday after travelling to Wellington on a chartered train for the Bill's third reading.

The settlement comes amid mounting anger among Maori radicals over land grievances, which has seen public buildings and reserves occupied and attacked and an historic school on disputed land burnt down. Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, said that if protesters took note of the Tainui deal, "today... will have been a new beginning for New Zealand".

Medicare cuts set to spark clash

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

A DRAMATIC clash between President Clinton and Congress loomed last night as the House of Representatives prepared to approve the most radical step yet in the Republican revolution.

Despite angry demonstrations on Capitol Hill and a promised presidential veto, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, predicted that the healthcare Bill would be passed by a "fairly comfortable majority". The Bill is designed to cut \$270 billion (£172 billion) over the next seven years from spending on Medicare, the health insurance programme for 37 million elderly Americans.

Until now Medicare had been considered untouchable and the Republicans are taking a huge risk in applying such drastic surgery, but the cost of the programme is rising so fast that the Republicans will not achieve a balanced budget by 2002 unless they take action.

Mr Clinton vowed to veto the Bill if it was passed by the Senate, but the Republicans have threatened to trigger America's first default on its debts if he does. They intend to combine the Medicare Bill, and another cutting \$182 billion from the Medicaid programme for the poor, in a budget package they will present to Mr Clinton next month. They say they will not lift the Administration's debt ceiling next month unless he approves this and other Bills to cut spending and taxes.

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The man who designed Yves

Giles Coren discovers why haute couture is not for the British

Paris, in October, goes prêt-à-porter mad. The café talk is all of Kenzo and Cerrito, Dior and Yamamoto, the taxi drivers tut at falling hemlines and sales staff in the boutiques whoop and squeal over frayed fashion pages.

The fever of the ready-to-wear collections, so gruesomely satirised in Robert Altman's film, *Prêt-à-Porter*, is symptomatic of the new, accessible face of fashion. These are designs that the reasonably rich can aspire to. But 5 Avenue, Marceau, on the Left Bank of the Seine, is a throw-back to the golden years of Paris fashion. Here, at the office of Yves Saint Laurent, is the genuine article, the haute couture attainable by almost no one, where the likes of Catherine Deneuve and Elizabeth Taylor are fitted for dresses which will cost £20,000. Listen very carefully: they will wear these dresses only once.

But you get what you pay for. The fitting room is like the bed chamber of a fairy-tale princess. The fabrics and furniture boast of old world opulence. The elegance of the *ancien régime* is taken further in M. Saint-Laurent's own office, a grandest of mirrors, gilt and velvet.

But Saint Laurent, the last of the great designers, did not

make this happen. Farther down the corridor, in an equally extravagant room, is the office of Pierre Bergé, the man they call "the pitbull of French fashion". He and Saint Laurent set up the company in 1962, and they have been business partners ever since. They were also called "the most famous gay couple in the world" until they split in 1976.

It was Bergé who negotiated the deals and set the prices. He bore the strain of Saint Laurent's well-documented emotional frailty, and in 1993 pulled off his master stroke, selling the company to Eli Sanofi in a £400 million share swap.

He is a political activist and close friend of François Mitterrand, who appointed him as director of the controversial Bastille Opera, where he hired and fired without mercy.

As he paced his office, I learnt where this hardness was born. "It was 1948 or 1949 that I spent a night in prison with Albert Camus," he recalls, eschewing flowery fashion talk.

At that time I was 19 years old and I had started an anarchist newspaper called *La Patrie Mondiale*. Camus, Sartre and André Breton all wrote for it. I knew them well. It was a movement in Paris after the war, and I was at the centre of it. I don't ask me why. "One day we went to dem-



Yves Saint Laurent with Pierre Bergé, the "pitbull of the French fashion world"

onstrate at the American Embassy in Paris. There were about 20 of us. Two minutes later the military police came, everybody ran away, and the two people who were caught were Camus and I. They took us to a small jail where we spent the night without sleeping. It was nice, there was no problem. I met so many extraordinary people when I was young. It did not seem unnatural."

He also knew Jean Cocteau, and when the author's adopted son died, the copyright passed to Bergé, who owns and oversees it to this day.

He had come to Paris to paint, but when he realised he would not make the grade he made Bernard Buffet his protégé, and established him as a world-class painter. That talent — to recognise a marketable artistic ability — was what drew him to Saint Laurent in 1958, when the designer was still at Christian Dior.

With such a background, Bergé is better entitled than most to comment on fashion's relation to art, something on which the French and British have long disagreed.

"Haute couture is like painting, or literature," he says. "It is only art if it is created by an artist. There is as much talent in a Coco Chanel as in a Braque, or a Virginia Woolf. There are many Sunday fashion designers, but if it is not made by an artist it is not art."

And who are the artists? "But Yves Saint Laurent, of course. The rest is a joke. In haute couture there is one genius, Yves Saint Laurent, and no-bod-ee else." He sings the word, accenting each syllable like a primary school French teacher, and sounds genuinely offended by the question.

Then he waxes existential.

"Haute couture will be dead in a few years. It is ridiculous to carry on at something that loses money and obliges you to sell perfumes and ties. How many women have the money to buy a couture dress? And if they do buy the dress, where is it possible to wear it today? To do what? And for who?"

"It is over, like art is over, and the intellectuals such as Sartre and Camus are over. Life has changed. Today it is not necessarily important to show, it is important to be. In a way it is wonderful, in terms of business maybe not. But it's wonderful. We don't need it like we did in the past. There are so many people who pretend to do haute couture today, like Versace for example, and for me it is just a disgrace" — he makes a strange Gallic spitting noise — "it is a joke, a con, shameful. It is Italian vulgarity, just a business. I am sorry because it means the end of an epoch and a world that I like very much. But we are like carriage drivers, and this is the age of the taxi."

As a committed leftwinger and anarchist it is fitting that he does not bemoan too loudly the passing of this market-driven elitist nonsense. It is bizarre, in fact, that he could ever reconcile the two.

"For a start, I am not a businessman. I know how to make money, but that is not my dream. I love success and glory, but I do not respect money. When I was young I wanted to be a writer or a painter or a journalist. I decided to work with Yves because it was an opportunity to help an artist. To develop his work, his image, his empire."

"People don't understand how you can be left-wing and rich at the same time. I know that. But we are obliged to live with our own contradictions and difficulties. My private life is well known, my money, my sexuality, my politics."

I mention that in England we have very few millionaire homosexual anarchists wielding political and cultural power. "Oh, you have them," says Bergé. "It is just more hidden."

He seems to know a fair bit about the British. And he will find out more when he comes to London on Monday for a retrospective show at the Savoy, the first time Yves Saint Laurent's haute couture has been shown in Britain.

Why is it that we have no haute couture here, and that it is as unthinkable as the idea of a British Pierre Bergé? "It is not a question of the designers. It is the people. For you it is vulgar to spend so many thousands of pounds on a piece of clothing. In all these years Yves has never made a couture dress for an English woman."

It is an extraordinary statistic, even though he excepts Margot Fonteyn from the rule "because she was a dancer and half Brazilian", and Elizabeth Taylor, because he considers her American.

"In the 1960s it was London that taught the world that 'anything goes', and that was important for fashion. But the French are conservative. They think they have created claret wine, and cheese, and haute couture, and after that the rest of the world can only follow. And we do not like the English because we are xenophobes. We will not let them follow."

And the English are not xenophobes? "Ah, no. You are snobs, it is different. You do not want to follow."

Libby Purves on a proper tribute to our favourite hero

At last, the full Nelson

Tomorrow, Trafalgar Day, launches the Nelson Decade: a commemoration leading to the second centenary of his death. There will be speeches at Greenwich, his signal hoisted, cannons and shanties.

There will also, mark my words, be grumbling. Somebody from the "England's Heroes" school of history will find out that as you leave the new Nelson Gallery at the National Maritime Museum a sign winks: "Is this all propaganda? Who made Nelson?" Those who like their legends dusty will complain. Wrongly: it was time someone showed us Nelson without his hundred layers of dim Victorian varnish.

I see no ships, England expects. Kiss me Hardy, the arm and the blind eye are over-familiar. The heavy veneration we inherit is witnessed in the exhibition's room on the "Immortal Memory", which boasts a vast, vile collection of pottery renderings of the Death of Nelson, spanning more than a century. The museum shop, wittily, is selling one-armed teddy bears: after the Victorian memorabilia, they somehow become acceptable as subtle satire.

By the time you get there, the spare and beautiful exhibition has made Nelson real again. Here is the small peaky Horace at Burnham Thorpe: the boy sailor, sent to sea at 12 and returning "a practical seaman, with a horror of the Royal Navy"; the 15-year-old attempting single combat with a polar bear; the young officer despondent about promotion, writing: "Well then, I will be a hero and, confiding in Providence, I will brave every danger." Here is the man playfully consoled by Emma Hamilton when he won the Battle of the Nile and got only a baronetcy. "If I was King of England," she wrote, "I would make you the most noble puissant Duke Nelson Marquis Nile Earl Alexander Viscount Pyramid Baron Crocodile and Prince Victory."

Here among the round-shot and the analysis of his strategic genius lie startling personal relics: the tourniquet that stemmed the blood when his arm was amputated, the

surgeon's terrible toolbox, his wife's lace, objects from his illicit home with Emma; and, brass-framed and profuse, his own words. "With a good ship and ship's company we can come to no harm." "A left-handed Admiral will never again be considered as useful." "My character and good name are in my own keeping." "Thank God I have done my duty." "They have done for me at last, Hardy... pray let dear Lady Hamilton have my hair."

The hair, bound into a pigtail, is here. So is the musket-ball that killed him, gold lace still stuck to it. The death-piece is affecting: no waxwork tableau, only his coat lying as if he had died at our feet and vanished. Its very flatness is poignant. Alongside is the Times headline of November 7: "Capture of French and Spanish fleets — Death of Nelson." It took that long for Lieutenant Lapenotière of HMS Pickle to struggle a thousand miles through gales with the message: "Sir, we have gained a great Victory, but we have lost Lord Nelson."

The mesmeric effect of victory and loss on the subsequent century is clear from the souvenirs and retrospective prints, typically a sailor gazing up at a portrait of Nelson with "England! What thou wert, thou art!" Thirty years after Trafalgar, Nelson's officers still controlled the Navy. Fifty years on, the very shape of the Victory and her sisters, the "wooden walls of England", were so dear that it took a French example to jolt the Admiralty into building our first iron warship, HMS Warrior. The exhibition's final question is fair enough: who made Nelson?

So you walk back to the Rigaud portrait, the slight figure with colourless hair and arched brows and a face full of nervous spirit and determination. You pick up a telephone handset and hear an actor's voice quietly reading from Nelson's diary: "May the Great God, whom I adore, help me to succeed."

A remarkable man but a real one, not a piece of patriotic pottery. The late James Gardner, whose last exhibition design this is, has served him well.



How Gillray saw Nelson's Nile victory

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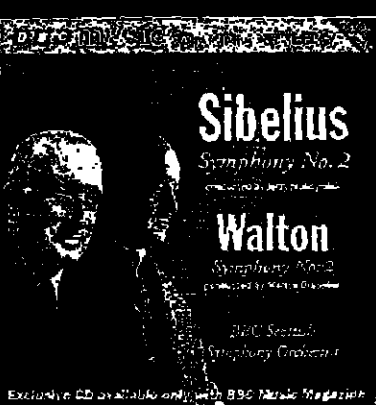
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PETER MILLAR, *The Times*

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Philip Howard



So great men such as Baden-Powell had feet of clay. So what?

This week's hero with feet (and other bits) of clay is Baden-Powell. The advance publicity for Channel 4's film claims that it will expose the rotten reality behind the whited sepulchre of the Boer War hero, and examine his "confused sexuality and latent sadism". This may be effective advance publicity. But it is a false claim as well as a work of supererogation. Years ago, BP's own diaries and biographers "revealed" in exhaustive detail the sexual hang-ups of the patriarch of the Scout movement: his physical horror of female sexuality, his fascination by corporal and capital punishment, and his delight in pubescent boys, preferably with no clothes on.

So now his family is threatening legal action. In his "On Yer Bike" column in the *Current*, Lord Tebbit writes with scatological relish: "It's time these muck-rakers all pedalled off to a cesspit where they could throw it at each other for the rest of time." In short, Veuve Clicquot all round at Channel 4's publicity department.

The argument about whether it is proper to point out the flaws in national institutions springs from the beginning of biography. Lytton Strachey shocked the stupid wing of polite society by his iconoclastic essays wittily demonstrating that such eminent Victorians as Florence Nightingale, Cardinal Manning, Thomas Arnold, General Gordon, and later even Queen Victoria herself, were not whitewashed saints but naughty human beings with flaws and faults in their characters. Shock! Surprise!

But in spite of Strachey's boast of inventing a new genre, he did not invent the muck-raking, warts-and-all biographical tendency. That is just the difference between biography and official hagiography of saints or press handouts of rulers, out of which it grew. Even in the inchoate biographies by Suetonius and Plutarch, the sexual perversions of the emperors are generally more interesting than their constitutional reforms or their military adventures. What Tiberius got up to with small boys on Capri and Messalina's steamy nightlife are more accessible to the general reader than changes in voting or the Roman greasy pole. Richard III was a better king than Holiness-shed chronicler. But Shakespeare's portrait of his secret life drawn from Holiness's official PR for the Tudor regime is the one that has stuck in the popular imagination.

In the first modern biography, *The Life of Mr Richard Savage*, Samuel Johnson dealt with the low life of a debauched wastrel and accused murderer, and showed that one touch of nature, fickleness and bad behaviour can make the whole world kin. Boswell's life of Sam would have offended its hero because it dealt with his private conversation rather than his public carapace of grand old man of letters. But it made Sam Johnson the patron saint of English humour.

Whether Rudyard Kipling or Jane Austen was homosexual (absurd notion) is not the most important fact about them. That Gladstone flagellated himself after being aroused by prostitutes makes that austere figure more human, just as Johnson's sexual temptations and remorse are interesting.

Since Freud, and in reaction to Victorian prudery, this century is obsessed with sex. Previous generations had their obsessions with aristocracy, class, money and party politics. Martin Amis wrote of a biographer that his "dirty little fingers rifle through his subject's private life like a hick detective investigating a pimp's account book".

Baden-Powell was an eminent Victorian who has become a national institution. He created a movement that brought adventure and purpose, the tying of knots and woggles and toggles to millions of boys and girls. Like many Victorians and Britons of previous and subsequent generations he was not normal, whatever that means, in his sexuality. This is mildly interesting, and may explain his sublimated drive, as it did for other great teachers and heroes of their age, such as Lewis Carroll and J.M. Barrie. Any serious biography or biopic deals with their private as well as their public parts. But it should also make clear that what matters today is what they made, not simply and sexually what made them.



Not blinded by scientists

I am notoriously gullible when it comes to science, but there are limits to my credulity. When I saw a headline — a small headline, to be sure, but a headline nevertheless — reading "Water is found on the Sun", I took out my trusty credulity, ready to hit someone with it. Our science editor tells me that the surface of the Sun has a temperature of approximately 6,000C ("Who hath measured the ground?"), so I decided that any boffins who wish to slake their thirst on the Sun should also wear light clothing.

I jest, but that is only to annoy the sillier scientists, and you wouldn't believe how silly those can be. They sometimes write to me, and can hardly hold the pen with rage to see me with thumb to nose (hardly scientific behaviour, don't you think?).

But, as I say, that is only to cause annoyance. No one, surely, can contemplate the wonders of the heavens and of the deeps without feeling awe; well, so it is with science. Many people make the mistake of believing that some of the more weird experiments that scientists carry out are not only odd but absurd. As a matter of fact, that is true, and many a taxpayer gets hot under the collar (though not quite 6,000C) when he sees a man in a white coat, presumably sane, measuring the length of the average cat's whiskers. I sometimes wonder whether, if Professor Doll had never come upon his truly epoch-making discovery — that smoking is dangerous — the world might be just as well off, or even — perish the thought — very slightly better.

There is a dark side to science, and many scientists acknowledge that darkness, which takes the form of "If it can be done, it must be done". When Professor Christiaan Barnard did the first heart transplant in 1967, the world was stunned, and he was hailed as not only one of the greatest scientists in all history, but almost as a man who had found the way to abolish death. His first patient, Louis Washkansky, lived only 18 days, but by then the sluice gates had been flung open. As I recall, the only voice raised against the hero was that of Malcolm Muggeridge, who will now say that Muggeridge was wrong? How much knowledge, effort, money and bed-space was — still is — being wasted on the glamorous successes of science, instead of the dozens of unglamorous hip-replacements that knowledge, effort, money and bed-space need? This is the

A 'cure' for mortality is very high on the agenda, but if we knew the answer, would we want to live for ever?

red rag of sense to the bull of science, but it still rankles, and it is still true.

But pause for a moment with those words, "Barnard had found the way to abolish death". They are not nearly as ridiculous as they should be. Deep down in the thoughts of millions, and not only in the thoughts of the old, there lingers a belief — not spoken, of course — that the abolition of death is coming closer, and many are found looking over that non-existent horizon to see the Sun rise over eternal life. Well, Barnard has shown the way, hasn't he? So the next step must be living for ever, mustn't it? No matter that the only thing every human creature without exception must endure (and every animal for that matter, though they don't make such a fuss about it) is death. Say it again: "If it can be done, it must be done."

But it has been done: it was done some 300 years ago, in the ingenious mind of Jonathan Swift. Swift called up a people, the Struldbrugs, who did indeed live for ever. But there was a catch in it (of course there always is), for the Struldbrugs had to live with all the infirmities of body and mind, which were on getting worse, becoming more and more terrible, so terrible that they prayed for death, and were refused it.

There are real Struldbrugs. Two Chinese refugees, who had escaped to America, testified that the Chinese Government removes organs from executed prisoners and sells them for use in medical transplants, which of course is nothing compared with the more recent revelations of the Chinese "dying rooms" in which superfluous babies are left unfed and unattended in their filth until they die.

I feel a little queasy; doctors, of course, are trained not to be queasy, but before I come back to the best in science, may I pause for a moment and ask the scientists what they think about that slogan "If it can be done..." What

proportion of our scientists live by that rubric? Do these applaud the Chinese spare parts system? After all, these people are dead, and now have no need of bodies.

I know it is tiresome, but I must ask: where does science stop, and "If it can be done, it must be done" begin? More tiresomely still, if the scientists say that there can be no such division, how does it come about that ordinary people, with no scientific knowledge, can quite easily understand the question?

Enough of interrogations: let us look at the bright side of science, and as it happens, we have a shaft of light so powerful that it would illuminate most of the dark side. Did you read the story of Professor Cano of California and the bacteria, patient creatures that they are? Patient indeed, because if Professor Cano is right, the bacteria — live

bacteria — have been asleep for upwards to 30 million years, and this is the hour in which the doors are flung open, and the bacteria, shaking their heads and stretching, emerge.

Thirty million years. To make the story even more marvellous, we learn that the little creatures slept through the centuries in a tropical amber. Amber itself is a mysterious thing; mysterious enough, anyway, to find that a ball of amber (perhaps in a bracelet or necklace) has turned the tables, and trapped a fly or even a bee.

Already, Professor Cano has been under attack: he is not denounced as a fraud, but those scientists who cannot believe the Professor's *trouille* argue that some modern bacteria must have got into his, by contamination. The Prof denies that, and insists that he was working in the most meticulous conditions. I hope he is proved right, and I think most people hope with me.

Why? Why do people — very much

including me — want to believe that the Prof is right? It is, I am sure, the feeling of awe, a sensation that has been withering away for a good many years now, and will die entirely unless there is something or someone to breathe life into it. Professor Cano has done precisely that: he may put it in different words, but I am certain that he walks with a spring, his eyes glow, and he sings in the bath. Not because if he is right he will get into the science books, even the encyclopaedias (though it seems that these are disappearing fast), but because he has tasted awe, and that taste lasts for ever.

With the warmth of Professor Cano wrapped round me, I am almost willing to believe that there is water on the Sun, but I don't need to, because once again, science has come up with something I can understand, or can almost understand. There is a tussle in the undergrowth: it seems that scientists have been trying to discover when the first "men" walked the Earth. The boffins worked with chromosomes, which are beyond me, but it seems that we are all descended from African ancestors (one in the eye for whiteness) who lived between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago, which rules out *Homo erectus*.

Again, we do not need to be experts in these matters; all we need is awe, and those thousands roll out to greet us. Never mind the brontosaurus and his cousins; something that we can recognise has been examined by science, and however primitive those ancestors of ours, we are assured that our forebears were not fishes or snakes or, for that matter, platypuses; we, however rudimentary we were, had somewhere in us, *Homo sapiens*.

Most of us are ignorant of science, but that is not entirely our fault; in their hearts the scientists despise us. Not just because we are ignorant, but because they are arrogant. When I wrote, earlier in this column, about the priorities we think vital, you brushed us away as though we were idiots. Come — where is there a leading scientist who will say clearly that it would have been better for the world if Christiaan Barnard had never been born, and his invention never thought of?

We cannot leave it there, happily we do not need to. A last item catches my eye, and the scientists are lining up. It seems that bees existed before flowers, but how can that be? Well, if you give us the answer, we shall give you the awe.

Bernard Levin

Stemming the tide of humanity

Nicholas Baker on what he could not say as minister for immigration

More and more people in the world are on the move. Sixty million people for example, including returning residents, are coming into Britain this year. Most of them move temporarily as visitors, but others seek to move permanently as a result of persecution in their home country or simply for a better life. The two species of movement present the attractive rich countries of Western Europe in particular with a serious challenge. Every country wants to facilitate genuine visitors, business travel and tourism, and cut down border formalities. But there have to be serious checks on permanent movements of population to avoid congestion in rich countries, absolute decline in poor countries and a serious threat to good race relations in countries such as Britain.

In Britain we have taken steps to facilitate temporary and beneficial flows of population and established immigration control on permanent flows which, while never free from difficult cases, are generally seen as tight, fair and firm. However, clandestine and bogus asylum claims are now threatening the control regime. So, if we are to preserve the beneficial flows, protect genuine refugees and our own good race and community relations, what needs to be done?

First, we must reduce the magnetic attraction of Britain. On a tour in Africa last month, of four countries in ten days to develop and explain our policies to attack these problems and secure co-operation from other governments, I was struck by the united chorus of my opposite numbers. You are wrong-headed ("crazy" was the word used by one minister) to proffer in Britain a prospect of jobs and welfare benefits to would-be migrants. Ninety per cent of income support, which we currently allow asylum seekers, may not be much to a family in Britain, but to an African on a below subsistence diet it seems — especially when the costs of living in Britain are ignored — like a fortune. We should seek to deter this traffic, rather than encourage it. The measures announced by Michael Howard, in the summer to secure the vigilance of different government departments make obvious sense, and Peter Lilley's restriction of benefit for asylum-seekers, announced last week, will go a long way to redress the position.

Secondly, we need to attack the racketeers. There are rural villages near Peking where illiterate peasants are being sold the line that the streets of Britain are paved with gold; that in return for their life savings (or an IOU which will take years to pay off), transport can be arranged in the back of a cross-Channel lorry, forged documents supplied and even work provided in a Lincolnshire field for £1.50 an hour to enable the debt to be repaid. The remedies we have against this evil trade are producing some impressive successes but could be beefed up still more. The alert attention of individual citizens can do a great deal to expose the racketeers. Thirdly, the control system needs tightening. It cannot be in the long-term interests of asylum seekers, whether their claim is genuine or bogus, for the legal process to be allowed to drag on for two years or more, before an appeal or judicial review, ends the matter. And having lost their case, as well over 50 per cent of asylum applicants presently do, they should be removed promptly. Asylum applications ran at 4,000 in 1988 and are currently at more than 40,000. It is against this background that Michael Howard's forthcoming package of measures should be judged.

Fourthly, there is a European aspect to the problem, because of similar experience in most European countries. If we are to avoid an unholy kind of competition we have an interest in seeing that controls in Europe are not greatly different from each other and that ours are no less firm than others. Since Germany tightened its controls two years ago, its asylum applications have gone down; this has also happened elsewhere in Europe, while numbers coming to Britain are going up. So a measure of European co-operation is in the interests of all EU countries. Britain and Ireland are the only countries in the EU which do not have criminal penalties for those who employ illegal immigrants. Whether the Schengen countries succeed in maintaining effective controls along one border round them all must be doubtful. The Prime Minister has made it quite clear that Britain's frontier controls are not negotiable.

Urgent action is required and further immigration measures will be necessary if the population flows continue. All countries, rich and poor, have a strong national self-interest in good, orderly government and freedom from persecution of other countries. In Africa I visited Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, where recent improvements in democracy, human rights and sensible economic management give some cause for hope. But that has hardly been true in Africa in recent years. And unless the citizens of poor countries in Africa and elsewhere receive the benefit of uncorrupt government, democratic processes, the rule of law and strong economic development, the flow of economic migrants to Western Europe will continue. Time is not on our side.

The author, MP for Dorset North, was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Home Office.

Into the fire

ONE of Britain's finest chefs has been forced to resign from France's most prestigious culinary organisation after allegations in a television documentary that he was violent in his kitchens. John Burton-Race, the owner of a two-star Michelin restaurant in Berkshire who was voted Britain's Chef of the Year in July, resigned from the *Académie Culinaire de France* yesterday evening.

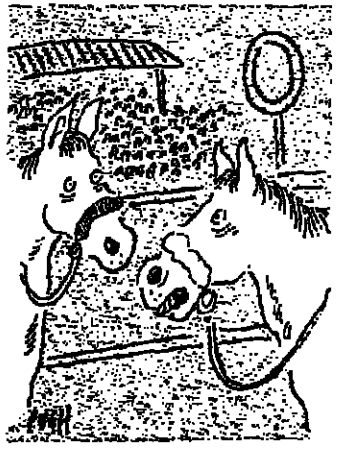
"After a meeting of the academy, it was unanimously agreed that the behaviour shown in the programme *The Big Story: violence in the kitchen* was totally unacceptable," said a spokesman. "And it has been agreed to accept John Burton-Race's resignation from the academy."

With hidden cameras, the Channel 4 documentary showed Burton-Race's sous-chef reduce a young French chef to tears. More sensational allegations were made by former workers at Burton-Race's L'Ortolan restaurant, which has two Michelin stars. One chef alleged that he saw Mr Burton-Race throw a cast-iron saucepan across the room at a young kitchen-hand.

Another target of the programme, Marco Pierre White, was

alleged to have punched one chef for using the wrong colour garnish and kicked a kitchen worker. Neither Burton-Race nor Marco Pierre White, who has three Michelin stars but is not a member of the academy, was available for comment.

• Spare a thought for Jiri Belohlavek, renowned conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra who was mugged in broad



Forget the 4.30 — I'm turning on Blackpool's lights for Red Rum

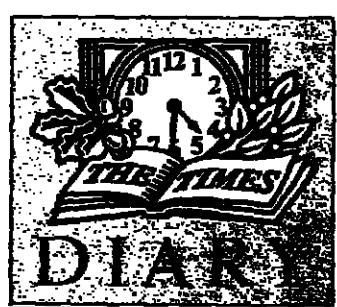
daylight outside the BBC in Manchester by a man brandishing a pair of scissors. His assailant made off with his passport, air ticket home and diary containing all his appointments until the year 2000.

Wheely fast

LATEST recruit to the inline skating lobby is Caroline Waldegrave, an exuberant cook and co-owner of Leith's restaurant in London's Notting Hill. While her aristocratic husband spends dignified lunch hours in the environs of the Treasury, she whizzes around Hyde Park on skates trailed by her spaniel.

"It's tremendous fun and you cover much more ground in a lunch hour than you would walking," she said. "But they're making it more difficult by putting down gravel so I'm forced to join the likes of the Duchess of Kent on her new blades. I haven't been plain rolling, however. This week she is sporting a sizeable bandage on her wrist after falling over."

• The Prisons Inspector Judge Stephen Tunna, who tore into Michael Howard earlier this week, pulled no punches at a *Folio Society* debate with Jeremy Isaacs at Lincoln's Inn on Wednesday



night. "We can hardly doubt that our lives would be enhanced with a few assassinations of politicians," he said.

In traction

UNHAPPILY, Sir Kingsley Amis was unable to attend the Foyles lunch in honour of his latest novel, *The Biographer's Moustache*. He is languishing in University College Hospital nursing some of the crushed vertebrae, but his skills for mimicry were fondly recalled by the chairman, writer and historian Paul Johnson.

"I think his best imitation is the one he does of the engine of an antiquated Belgian truck starting up in the Ardennes campaign of 1944," he said. Alan Coren begged to differ: "I prefer his imitation of a Yugoslav Jeep, including four Yugoslavs."

• The Marquess of Bath was among those cavorting at Peter Stringfellow's club for his 55th birthday bash on Wednesday night. But another furry face was missing. Stringfellow's white Persian cat, Cecil, was neutered recently and he now prefers Cruise, the gay nightclub next door.

Shore thing

SIR ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER has built a career on musical spectaculars. Now he has decided to stage a minimalist production of a new musical in an English seaside resort. Fed up with extravagance and huge overheads, he has written *By Jeeves* with Alan Ayckbourn to open at the playwright's Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough next summer.

"It is disgracefully, obscenely expensive to stage a musical these days," he said yesterday at the launch of productions that the National Youth Musical Theatre are taking to Broadway. "The new show will have no sets whatsoever, no costumes and few props."

Mantle asylum

THAT dignified repository in Oxford, the Ashmolean Museum, has been besieged with Disney fans ever since the release of the



Pocahontas old cloak

new film *Pocahontas*. Hordes of the little beggars have been dragging their reluctant parents to see a deer-skin mantle thought to have belonged to the heroine's father, Powhatan.

The senior assistant keeper, Arthur Macgregor, says the mantle is "probably the most important North American relic to survive anywhere". He is digging in for a new onslaught. *Pocahontas* has just opened at a cinema opposite the museum.

P.H.S.



SPRUNG FROM JAIL

Howard survives, but so do the problems of the Prison Service

Michael Howard's fiery exchange with Jack Straw across the dispatch box yesterday was a storm of sound and fury which will have signified little to most voters. Not since the Westland crisis has the fate of a minister appeared to hinge on so technical an issue. Clear enough were the passions of the Home Secretary, his opposite number and — towards the end of the battle — Tony Blair. The problems of the Prison Service, as outlined in this week's Learmont report, remain, of course, no closer to resolution.

Since the dismissal of Derek Lewis as Director-General of the Prison Service, two entirely different interpretations of the Learmont affair have emerged. The case against the Home Secretary was encapsulated in Judge Stephen Tumim's claim that the division in the Prison Service between "operational" and "policy" decisions is bogus. Mr Lewis's writ against Mr Howard for wrongful dismissal hinges on the same argument. The Home Secretary, it is alleged, intervened on a daily basis in the management of the Prison Service, put pressure on Mr Lewis to attack the Prison Officers' Association and interfered in the running of Whitemoor jail — charges which Mr Howard denies.

The Home Secretary is also said to have instructed Mr Lewis to suspend John Marriott, the governor of Parkhurst, on January 10 and to do so immediately. It is further alleged that the Home Secretary lied to the Home Affairs Committee on January 25, when he said that he "did not need" to suggest the removal of Mr Marriott to Mr Lewis, this being an operational decision for the Director-General himself to take. This was the crux of Mr Straw's attack on Mr Howard.

The Home Secretary slipped under the wire, just. He was able to argue, quoting from the Prison Service's guidelines, that the removal of prison governors is a matter for the Director-General. At the same time, the Home Secretary is entitled to be consulted on such questions when they have a bearing on public confidence in the Prison Service.

Mr Howard readily admitted that he had proposed the suspension of Mr Marriott. He was also able to point out that this proposal was rejected and the governor merely moved to another post.

Less clear-cut was the Home Secretary's answer to Mr Straw's second main line of attack: had he insisted that Mr Marriott be moved immediately? Mr Howard's defence — that he had not himself inserted the word "today" in the official statement — was barely adequate. More persuasive was his point that Mr Lewis had, eight days later, endorsed the "immediate" removal of Mr Marriott. The House of Commons is scarcely the ideal forum in which to establish what happened at a particular meeting nine months ago. It was always going to be difficult to prove that what Mr Howard described as legitimate consultation with Mr Lewis amounted to unpleasant intimidation.

In the end, it was political reality rather than constitutional nicety which settled the matter. As a man of the Right who has been utterly loyal to the Prime Minister, Mr Howard's position is strong as long as the Government survives. Last week he gave the Tory party the muscular law and order speech it wanted to hear. Yesterday he was rewarded by a series of aggressive interventions from right-wing MPs seeking to fluster Mr Straw. The Labour spokesman's confidence improved as the debate progressed. But there was little prospect that he would undermine the Home Secretary's support on his own benches.

Mr Howard even seemed to enjoy himself yesterday. He turned an attack on his competence into an attack on Labour's fitness to govern. But his bravura performance could not conceal all the political damage that he has suffered this week. The questions of accountability and managerial competence in the Prison Service which have underpinned this crisis are starkly clear. The Home Secretary has proved himself a gritty parliamentarian; but bigger challenges than that lie ahead.

SHADOW BOXING

Mr Blair should have more discretion to appoint his team

The most reactionary members of the Labour Party now are not its activists, not even its affiliated trade union leaders; they are its representatives in Parliament. If Tony Blair needed reminding of this, it was confirmed in the elections to the Shadow Cabinet. The revolt against Mr Blair came not from the Left but from the relics of old Labour, determined to wreak their revenge on young modernisers in the image of the Labour leader.

The result was a stitch-up reminiscent of the old days of Labour and trade union deals. Two second-rate men managed to remain in the Shadow Cabinet and a third rejoined. Tom Clarke's re-entry can hardly be said to have been on merit. Ron Davies's promotion to fourth place owes less to his skills than to relentless lobbying. It is extraordinary that David Clark remains at Defence when men such as Alistair Darling and Brian Wilson perform so much better.

Luckily for Mr Blair, there are enough low-ranking jobs in the Shadow Cabinet to scatter around these people. And at the top, he still has some strong performers. David Blunkett has impressed at Education, and deserves to add Employment to his role. Harriet Harman promises, to do better at Health than at the Treasury and Employment. Chris Smith, meanwhile, has the intelligence and toughness to tackle social security reform. Margaret Beckett will be able to do little harm at Trade and Industry, at least she works well with the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown. Clare Short has a powerful political presence and well deserves her place in the team.

But it remains absurd that Mr Blair should have to accept whichever politicians are thrown up by the horse-dealing between factions and regions that takes place each

year. And it is demeaning for the prospective shadow ministers to have to grovel to their parliamentary colleagues in order to solicit their support. It is hardly common practice for an organisation to allow its top managers to be elected. Why should the Labour Party do so?

Mr Blair is said to be reluctant to try to force through changes to the system before the next election. If he won power, he could discard any poor performers from his first Cabinet and thereafter would have as much discretion as any Tory Prime Minister. But earlier this summer he managed easily to have the rules changed to allow the Chief Whip to be appointed rather than elected: there is support for further change.

Mr Blair still needs to fight hard in the next 18 months to have a chance of winning the next election. He will be doing so with one hand tied behind his back and will be trying to ensure that the brightest junior frontbench spokesmen win more attention than their less talented seniors. Mr Blair should press next year for a reform of the system, if he is not prepared to contemplate total abolition.

For most of the past few decades, elections to the Shadow Cabinet have been for only 12 members. The leader of the day had the discretion to appoint the other nine. The numbers have recently been increased for various reasons, not least the need to have a quota for women. Mr Blair should seek a return to the old days. His best and brightest women no longer need the support of a quota; they will be returned on merit. The less impressive, such as Ann Taylor and Joan Lester, do him no credit anyway. If the Parliamentary Labour Party wants to win the next general election, it must allow its leader the ammunition to do so.

MARCO POLO'S CHINESE CHUKKA

Did the Venetian merchant really make it all up?

Ask a keen schoolchild who Marco Polo was and, if you are lucky, you will get the following succinct answer: "Marco Polo was a Venetian merchant who travelled overland to China in the 13th century and served the Emperor Kublai Khan for over a decade before returning to Europe by sea." Very good, a teacher should purr in response. But if a certain Frances Wood has her way, the poor child will have to be stiffly rebuked — and comprehensively re-educated.

Dr Wood, head of the Chinese department at the British Library, believes that the *Travels of Marco Polo* are a pile of old chopsticks, and that the Venetian who gave us the gift of pasta did not even set medieval foot in China. A remorseless revisionist, she argues in a forthcoming book that Signor Polo's fabled journey was no more than that — a fable — concocted when he was imprisoned for two years in a Genoese jail.

Few of us, however, will want to believe her. And why should we? As our precious pool of certitudes shrinks ever smaller with each new book, the loss of Marco Polo would be a disturbing one. And who would be forced to humble next, once the irreverent floodgates open? Are we to be told that Hillary and Tensing did not climb Mount Everest, that Christopher Columbus only

dreamt of America, that William of Orange was actually from Essex?

Dr Wood points out that the *Travels* make no mention of such obvious Chinese emblems as the Great Wall, or tea, or that society's ideographic script. "So where are the holiday snaps then, eh, Marco?" she appears almost to ask. But why should these omissions matter? Signor Polo did not set out to write the medieval equivalent of a *Financial Times* special report.

The *Travels* were a more sensual affair, the product of medieval romances. Signor Polo was at once expansive and selective in what he remembered. How could he not be? Does not jail do that to all of us? And most shrewdly, he caught the mood of his credulous times, when a popular hunger for romance was matched only by the narrowness of lives which people generally led.

At a time when Genoa was a foreign place to the Venetians, think of the swank a man could have if he had been to Samarkand, Peking and the Nicobar Islands. Can one blame Signor Polo for hamming it up a bit? And if he did not glowingly write of tea — or even refer to it at all — it is not because he never went to China. Has it occurred to Dr Wood that our bustling explorer might have preferred something stronger?

Portillo's 'Aunt Sally' on defence

From Lord Plumb, MEP for Cotswolds (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, Your editorial, "Santer's error" (October 16), purports to show that Michael Portillo's Aunt Sally of a single European army is actually a real threat, based on "a proposal which has been given serious cross-party consideration throughout the Continent".

Whilst there are certainly some politicians on both left and right who want to see the EU endowed with a direct defence capability — just as Churchill proposed a European army in 1950 — this is certainly not the mainstream view of European governments currently preparing for next year's inter-governmental conference (IGC).

The Maastricht Treaty itself talks about the emergence of a "common defence" in Europe, a goal John Major endorsed. Today this is interpreted as meaning moves to make the Western European Union and the European Union co-terminous. The Reflection Group preparing for the IGC stated last month that "national sovereignty remains the basic point of reference" in the European defence field, with unanimity needing to remain "the rule".

Your editorial claims that the European People's Party — of whose parliamentary group British Conservative MEPs are all members — supports an EU defence capability with nuclear weapons, where decisions would be taken by qualified majority vote (QMV).

It is true that the EPP has traditionally argued for a common European defence, with greater use of QMV. However, any nuclear component would certainly be subject to the agreement of Europe's existing nuclear powers. I see no suggestion of anything else from German CDU/CSU or French UDF colleagues, who sit with us in the same group in the European Parliament.

In your desire to bolster Mr Portillo's credibility, you overstate the risks of a European army being seriously on the agenda. It is not. But then the Defence Secretary would not be the first warrior to tilt at windmills, and probably with as little success.

Yours etc,
HENRY PLUMB,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
October 18.

From Lord Buxton

Sir, What Michael Portillo said at Blackpool, and how he said it, is clearly a momentous issue.

But surely the most staggering aspect, beyond belief to the ordinary citizen, is a Secretary of State for Defence being publicly dressed down by an unelected official of limited experience from abroad (report, October 16).

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
BUXTON,
House of Lords,
October 18.

A Tory wife

From Mr Denis Watkins

Sir, The perfect antidote to the strident posturing on display all week at the Conservative Party conference was provided by the warmth and generosity of Mrs Gillian Howarth ("I was not a good Tory wife, but I was loyal to Alan", October 13).

Yours sincerely,
DENIS WATKINS,
Ty Newydd,
Velindre, Cymrych, Dyfed,
October 14.

From Mrs Valerie Hill

Sir, Just for the record, contrary to her own opinion Gilly Howarth was an excellent "Tory wife".

She was swiftly elected to be President of our Conservative Women's Constituency Committee, a post she held for 12 years. Every February she gave up a precious day at half-term, in spite of having four schoolchildren at home, to come and preside at our AGM.

Her visits were always a breath of fresh air, and an inspiration to us. She attended an endless round of bazaars and functions, and always executed her duties with grace and charm, and a winning smile.

We shall miss her.
Yours sincerely,
VALERIE HILL,
(Branch chairman,
Stratford-upon-Avon constituency,
1985-89),
Flax Hill, Upton Fields,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,
October 13.

Labour promises

From Mr Peter Mercer

Sir, Is it not rather odd that one of the few specific promises in Mr Blair's vision of a new Britain is the commitment to maintain the public ownership of "our railways, built up over the years"? Apart from the evident nostalgia, were not these railways of "ours" the creations of the purest form of Victorian entrepreneurial capitalism?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MERCER
(Editor),
Industry and European Markets,
3 St Faiths Lane, Norwich, Norfolk,
October 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Use of shock tactics by charities

From Mr John F. Gray

Sir, Matthew Parris rails (article, October 16) against the slick image-makers and spin-doctoring PRs that now seem to be infiltrating the homely and amiable world of charities. How much better that charities should know their place — a small group of voluntary do-gooders cajoling tuppence out of him in a genial manner at a village fair.

Mr Parris needs to wake up to the 20th century. Charities are big business and have a responsibility to their many donors to market themselves as professionally as possible. We would be failing our supporters and those we seek to help if we did not make a return on every penny invested either by making a major impact on key decision-makers or raising more money.

Of course charities should be extremely cautious in not exploiting or humiliating those people or issues they claim to serve. The Red Cross believes that its professional fundraising, advertising and PR techniques should never jeopardise the dignity of the individual. We thank Mr Parris for reminding us of that, but please don't send us back to the dark ages. Professionalism in the charity world should be encouraged, not criticised.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN F. GRAY
(Director of Public Affairs,
British Red Cross,
9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1,
October 16.

From Ms Rachel Ward

Sir, I share some of Matthew Parris's unease about charities' need to portray horror in order to fundraise. It may be, however, that constant media coverage of atrocities has been responsible for raising the public's shock threshold — the extent of it is far in excess of anything a responsible charity could afford.

We take our relationships with indi-

vidual donors very seriously — they are our major source of income. They are intelligent people and we treat them accordingly by involving them in our work rather than treating them like a cash machine which responds to the "shock" button.

Blaming the charity which publicises a distressing issue is a clear example of shooting the messenger. It used to be that charities were too political — now we are too explicit. Tell that to the 65 governments which tortured our clients.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL WARD
(Head of Fundraising,
Medical Foundation for the Care of
Victims of Torture,
96-98 Grafton Road, NW5,
October 16.

From the Executive Director,
Feed the Children

Sir, Matthew Parris presents a timely warning; if charities appear to be out to shock, "leapfrogging" each other to gain attention, then indeed we will undermine our mission.

That mission should be to convey information about problems and their resolution, and to encourage a response in the most cost-effective way.

The problem is how to gain people's attention in an image-frenzied culture. How do we stop people in their tracks with posters, advertisements, displays and literature without using the shock tactic?

Understatement does not work, but making people feel disgusted won't raise money either. The success of an appeal depends on the cause itself, and on confidence that the charity can deliver results.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. W. CRUBB,
Executive Director,
Feed the Children (Europe),
82 Caversham Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
October 16.

ional friendship and co-operation.

We have preserved very little Royal Naval equipment from the Second World War. Just three significant warships remain: the cruiser *HMS Belfast* in London, the destroyer *HMS Cavalier* in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the submarine *HMS Alliance* in Gosport.

This society believes that we should expand the collection of these warships before the last few in service around the world are scrapped.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS TANKARD,
Chairman, Historic Warship
Preservation Society,
8 Fair Park View,
Mitchell, Newquay, Cornwall,
October 16.

Raising U-boats

From the Chairman, the Historic Warship Preservation Society

Sir, The news that more than 100 U-boats from the Second World War are to be salvaged from the Atlantic (News in brief, October 16) raises an opportunity to do more than just demolish them for scrap. The Germans themselves have raised a U-boat and it is now on display in a museum in Kiel.

We should seriously consider preserving at least one U-boat in the UK, possibly at the Submarine Museum at Gosport in Hampshire. Also we might offer one or more of the salvaged U-boats to the Germans for preservation in the name of international

Exam comparisons

From Professor Alan Smithers and Dr Pamela Robinson

Sir, Far from "seemingly to undermine" our report, *Co-educational and Single-sex Schooling*, Ofsted's analyses (details, October 16) actually confirm it. While it is true that "girls-only schools score best results regardless of class" overall, when similar types of schools are compared, the apparent superiority disappears.

Ofsted's figures show that the average GCSE points scores of girls in comprehensive schools in 1994 were: girls-only without sixth form 31.7; co-ed without sixth form 33.3; girls-only

with sixth form 35.9; co-ed with sixth form 35.7.

The comparison on which your headline, "Boys ranked below mixed intake", is based, not only fails to distinguish between grammar and comprehensive schools, but combines the results, very different from each other, of girls and boys in co-ed schools.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMITHERS,
PAMELA A. ROBINSON,
The University of Manchester,
School of Education,
Centre for Education & Employment
Research,
Oxford Road, Manchester M13,
October 16.

Angling under fire

From Mr M. P. McNally

Sir, I welcome the announcement (report, October 10; letter, October 17) by the National Federation of Anglers, the National Federation of Sea Anglers and the Salmon and Trout Association that they now recognise the British Field Sports Society as the unifying body lobbying on their behalf in the "collective defence and promotion of country sports".

Any doubts on the part of anglers that throwing their hats into the ring with the hunting and shooting fraternity might be counterproductive are dangerously misplaced. It is foolish and naive to assume that, if hunting with hounds and shooting were to be brought to an end by legislation, fishing in all its forms would somehow be safe from the attention of animal rights activists and politicians.

Hunt saboteurs are ready to extend their priorities, and the sabotaging of fishing matches and physical attacks on fishermen are becoming increasingly common.

From Councillor Susan Brown

Sir, John Patten was quoted in your Diary of October 13 as saying he will be giving up his seat (Oxfordshire West and Abingdon) to an older man. As a young woman who will be standing for Labour against whichever old man the Conservative Party can find to stand in that constituency, I beg to differ.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN BROWN
(Prospective parliamentary
candidate),
Oxford West and Abingdon
Labour Party,
3 Allam Street, Oxford,
October 16.

The Labour Party actively supports angling at present but in my view this has nothing to do with concern for animal welfare and everything to do with cynical political expedience. There are four million anglers in this country and the Labour Party has no desire to lose their votes.

If those opposed to angling managed to swing public opinion with a publicity campaign as effective as that already mounted against hunting and shooting, political parties could well consider that the electoral balance of convenience lay in favour of a fishing ban.

It is time for fishermen to recognise that precisely the same issues — moral and scientific as well as environmental and economic — apply to fishing as to other field sports, and to join the struggle to defend our way of life against those who are too ignorant and prejudiced to understand it.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL McNALLY,
Knights (solitators),
Regency House, 25 High Street,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

The common touch

From Mr Robert Freer

Sir, As Parliament reassembles politicians might wish to reflect that Kipling's *If* is remembered (reports and article, October 13) partly because he achieved what he had to say in fewer than 300 words, almost all of which are single syllables.

Yours faithfully,
R. FREER,
14 Alleen Crescent, SE21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Inadequacies of divorce reforms

From Mr Colin Hart

Sir, Your leading article, "Grounds for divorce reform" (October 19), admits that every previous change in the divorce law has made divorce easier, but claims that this will not happen with the Lord Chancellor's proposals (White Paper details, April 28).

It is the Law Commission which has drafted up the present proposals — the very same body which devised the last reforms, which managed to double the divorce rate within the first two years of operation of the 1969 Divorce Reform Act. Since then the trend has been ever upwards.

The Government maintains that the reforms will have a broadly neutral effect. The reforms deserve condemnation on that ground alone, for there is no commitment to lower the divorce rate.

I challenge anyone to show me that the introduction of "no fault" divorce has ever lowered the divorce rate. In fact the research evidence points in the opposite direction. One study of the introduction of no-fault divorce laws in the United States found very strong evidence of an increase in the divorce rate in eight states and lesser evidence of an increase in another eight. The average increase was 20-25 per cent in these states.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN HART (Director),
The Christian Institute,
Eslington House, Eslington Terrace,
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne,
October 19.

Reduced to rubble

From Sir Clive Sinclair

Sir, Your report today of the demolition of an £86,000 Leicestershire cottage restored by Mr William Pinckney and his son displays a mean-minded arrogance on the part of Charnwood Borough Council that beggars belief. The restoration was clearly to everyone's advantage.

The council have destroyed a valuable property out of sheer spite, arising out of a planning dispute. These people, who should be our servants, have made themselves our masters. Who can call these monsters to account?

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE SINCLAIR,
15 Shepherd Street, W1,
October 19.

Embassies and trade

From Sir Denis Wright

Sir, Sir Horace Phillips (letter, October 12) comments on Mr Robin Cook's idea (report, October 6) of appointing businessmen as ambassadors. It is worth recalling that towards the end of 1948 the then President of the Board of Trade, Harold Wilson, launched a much publicised dollar export drive in which businessmen were to play a big part. To this end the US was divided into four zones, each under the newly created post of Superintending Trade Consul supported by commercial advisers drawn from the business world.

The scheme was not a success and has not been repeated — the performance of the commercial advisers, difficult to recruit in the first place, being singularly disappointing. My experience both as one of the original Superintending Trade Consuls and later as an ambassador is that, as Sir Horace states, there are limits to what an ambassador and his staff can and cannot do in promoting exports.

There is no reason to think that a businessman would be any more effective than a career diplomat in working within those limits.

Yours truly,
DENIS WRIGHT,
Duck Bottom,
Flint Street, Haddenham,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
October 13.

Bar to priesthood

From Canon Godfrey I. Hirst

Sir, There is no need for coeliac priests to forgo the consecrated host, as Mr W. J. Warnes suggests (letter, October 17). The Poor Clares in York provide gluten-free wafers in a distinctive shape, in order to avoid this problem for lay and clergy alike.

Yours faithfully,
GODFREY HIRST,
The Vicarage, Church Road, Lytham,
Lytham St Annes, Lancashire,
October 17.

No doubting Thomas

From Mrs Moira Percival

Sir, It is hardly surprising that Thomas is the most popular boy's name in recent years (report, October 18). There is a direct correlation with the "good guy" of the times, who has upheld moral standards, overcome the bully and been perceived as a role model to which any parent would wish their son to aspire.

He is not a royal, a politician, an entertainer or a captain of industry — he is the hero of the times, Thomas the Tank Engine.

Peep, Peep,
MOIRA PERCIVAL,
41 Bankhall Lane,
Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire,
October 18.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 19: The President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Wolfgang Ickert) (Lancaster) this morning called on the President of the Republic of Finland.

The President and Mrs. Ahtisaari, after visiting the Finnish Church, Albion Street, London SE16, were received by the Pastor of the Finnish Church in London (the Reverend Leo Norgi) and the Mayor of Southwark (Councillor Aubyn Graham) and met members of the Finnish Church community.

Later, having been received at St. James's Palace by Mr. David Jeffery (Chief Executive, Port of London Authority), the President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs. Ahtisaari embarked on the Royal Navy tugboat *Princess Alice* and proceeded downriver to Greenwich before returning to the ship to disembark at Lambeth Pier.

The Queen's Burgomaster and Waterman were on duty. The President and Mrs. Ahtisaari, after lunch, attended a Reception and Luncheon given by the Finnish Community at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present. The President of the Republic of Finland later visited the British Broadcasting Corporation, Bush House, London WC2, and was received by the Chairman (Mr. Marmaduke Hussey).

His Excellency afterwards visited the British Broadcasting Corporation, Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W1.

His Excellency this evening visited the Palace of Westminster, where he received by Sir Patrick Cormack MP (Chairman, British-Finnish Parliamentary Friendship Group) and subsequently visited the Deputy Speaker at Speaker's House.

His Excellency Sir Washington Ashwell was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Paraguay to the Court of St. James's.

Shera de Ashwell was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Right Reverend Colin James (formerly Bishop of Winchester) was received by the Queen and delivered up to Her Majesty the Badge and Chain of Office relating to his appointment as Prelate of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

His Excellency Mr. James Thomas was received in audience by the Queen and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda in London.

Mrs. Douglas Phillips was received by the Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

Lady Mary Munford was received by the Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the insignia of a Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Abbey to mark the completion of the restoration of the Abbey and were received at the West Door by the Dean (the Very Reverend Michael Mayne).

Her Majesty unveiled a new commemorative window and afterwards, with Her Royal Highness, attended a reception in Little Cloisters and met the Westminster Abbey Trustees.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were entertained by the President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs. Ahtisaari at a Banquet at the Finnish Residence, Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member and Past President of the Marylebone Cricket Club, this morning opened the new Indoor Cricket School at Lord's Ground, London NW8.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 19: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, this

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

morning attended the annual conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, this afternoon attended the launch of "Crimes in the Run-Around" a Guide for Parish Councils, at the Barbican Centre, London EC2.

The Princess Royal later attended the HM Customs and Excise Drugs Awareness Day at the Customs House, Lower Thames Street, London SE1.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended the Trafalgar Night Dinner at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 19: The Prince of Wales this morning attended a presentation by Actionaid at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, the Prince of Wales Institute of the Astronomical Humanities Research Centre at the Institute of Architecture, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, London NW1.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this afternoon received Mr. Peter Ellwood (Chief Executive, Trustee Savings Bank) to discuss the "Gifts in Kind" initiative.

The Prince of Wales this evening gave a reception for the Tamesis Academy at St James's Palace.

Later, His Royal Highness was entertained by the President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs. Ahtisaari at the Finnish Residence, Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Sandwich, was entertained this evening at a Banquet given by the President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs. Ahtisaari at the Finnish Residence, Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 19: The Duke of Kent this morning visited BWD Rensburg, Newcastle House, Sheffield, South Yorkshire and met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire (Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Neil).

His Royal Highness later visited 3 Star Engineering, President Park, Saville Street, Sheffield.

The Duke of Kent this afternoon visited the Victoria House, Victoria Quay, Sheffield and visited Bridon Wire, Carr Hill, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, President, NCH Action for Children, this evening attended a "Children for Children" event, Truro Cathedral, Truro, Cornwall.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
October 19: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy, today visited the Chobe National Park, Botswana.

Service
British Maritime
Charitable Foundation
Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Honorary President of the British Maritime Charitable Foundation, was present at the annual thanksgiving service held yesterday at All Hallows-by-the-Tower for the lives of "those who lost their lives at sea and have no known grave" whose names are inscribed in the memorial book. The Rev. Peter Delaney officiated. Relatives and representatives of other maritime organisations attended.

Middle Temple
Lord Taylor of Gosford, the Lord Chief Justice, has been elected an Honorary Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple. Mr. N.J. Milne, QC, Mr. A.R. Thornhill, QC, and Mr. R.M. Englehart, QC, have been elected Masters of the Bench.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 19: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, this

Unknown version of Verdi song is revealed

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PREVIOUSLY unknown manuscript from Verdi's *Otello* which includes *The Willow Song* is a version which dramatically differs from the one audiences have known since its 1887 premiere in a private collection.

The undocumented 19-page autograph is a working manuscript in which the Italian master explored his ideas for both *The Willow Song* and *Ave Maria*. It will be sold on December 1 by Sotheby's, which describes it as the most important Verdi manuscript to be offered at auction.

Collectors have generally been offered no more than a single leaf of a manuscript. Anything relating to his operatic work has also been from the early operas of the 1840s rather than major works such as *Otello*, written when Verdi (1813-1901) was 73. Almost all his manuscripts are in the archives of the Ricordi publishing house in Milan.

Simon Maguire of Sotheby's said: "This offers an extremely rare insight into the creative process of the greatest of all Italian opera composers. It is not only from one of the greatest works of his maturity, but contains rare evidence of the early stages in his creation."

He said that the setting of



In his own hand: Verdi and the "new" Willow Song

The Willow Song uses a different text from the standard version. Until now, it was not known that Verdi had set Arrigo Boito's original 1789 text. "Verdi was obviously dissatisfied with it," Mr. Maguire said, pointing out that certain melodies associated with the final version are absent and that this version opens with a different melodic line. He added: "This manuscript therefore includes what is in effect a new piece by Verdi. Before this find, only three short sketches for Acts I and III of the opera were known and each are only one or two pages in length."

Ave Maria has a different vocal line which Verdi crossed out and abandoned. Mr. Maguire noted how the final section is compressed as Verdi ran out of space on the page.

Service of Thanksgiving

Wing Commander Sylvia Gibson, Major Ian Fraser, RA, and Squadron Leaders Paul and Jackie Lockwood

A Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of Wing Commander Sylvia Gibson, her husband, Major Ian Fraser, RA, and Squadron Leaders Paul and Jackie Lockwood will be held at St Clements Church, Church of the Royal Air Force, The Strand, London on Saturday, November 18, 1995, at 11am.

All those who wish to attend the Service should contact Flight Lieutenant C.T. Smith, C/O P/W F/Lt, RAF Uxbridge, UB10 0RZ (telephone 01895 237144, extensions 626/6233).

The Sir Leon Bagrit Centre

The Eleventh Bagrit Evening was held on Thursday, October 19, at 170 Queens Gate, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine.

The lecture "The Clinical Applications of Magnetic Resonance Therapy (MRT)" was delivered by Dr. Michael Maguire, Director of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit, St Mary's Hospital.

This was followed by a dinner. Among those present were Lord Glenarthur, Lord and Lady Rees-Mogg, Miss Mei Lai, Miss Pat McCann, Dr. William Harris and Professor Richard Kiley (Director of the Centre).

Deputy lieutenants

Mrs Mary Calmross, of Perth, and Mr Alastair H. Cruickshank, of Perth, have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Perth and Kinross.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a Ditchley Foundation conference at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, at 3.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Captain General Royal Marines, will attend a march through the City of London by privileged regiments at the Mansion House at 11.55, and, as Admiral, will attend a dinner at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Hamble, Hampshire, at 6.45.

The Princess Royal will preside at a Group Discussion on Equine Educational Provision at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, at 3.00.

Royal Fine Art Commission

Lord St John of Fawley, the Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, presided at the Annual Lecture on Thursday, October 19, at 7.30 in the Lecture Theatre, at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

The lecture "The City: Past and Future" was followed by a reception. Among those present were members of the Diplomatic Corps and both Houses of Parliament.

Latest wills

Mr Richard Charles Pomeroy Oates, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £565,447 net.

Sir Bernard Caulfield, of Lincoln, High Colston, Lincoln, Division 1968-99, left estate valued at £232,421 net.

Dr Michael Scott Montague Fordham, of Jordans, Buckinghamshire, founding chairman in 1946 of the Society of Analytical Psychology, left estate valued at £234,156 net.

MAY - Keith William on 16th October 1995 at his home in Lifford, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, aged 74 years, died of cancer. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret, and three children. Burial at Lifford on 21st October 1995 at 11am, followed by cremation. No flowers by request. Mr. William was a member of the R.N.L.I. West Quay Road, Lifford, Co. Londonderry. He was a private citizen.

MONROE - On October 17th 1995, peacefully aged 82, William Robert C. Monroe, R.N., much loved husband of Prue, Jane and William. Service at Yeovil Crematorium on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30pm. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

LAMB BROWN - Laura, on October 18th, peacefully, in her 95th year, widow of Alan, mother of Catherine and James. A much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at 11.30am on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30pm, and at Yeovil Crematorium on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30pm. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

LAZARUS - On 19th October 1995, Sir Peter, at his home aged 96, leaving behind a wife and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

MOORE - On 19th October 1995, John Alec, aged 70 years, died of cancer. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret, and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

TOBIN - Rosemary (née Sillman), on October 18th 1995, at her home aged 91, leaving behind a husband and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

WEAR - Alan Ross, Ophthalmic Surgeon, of Weymouth, Dorset, on 18th October 1995, at his home aged 73, leaving behind a wife and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

WILLIAMS - On 19th October 1995, at his home aged 73, leaving behind a wife and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.D. Allen and Miss J.M. Baker
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs David Allen, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Joanne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Baker, of Chesham, Surrey.

Lieutenant Colonel P.H. Bell, R.I.C. and Miss A.S.C. Healy-Fenton
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs George Bell, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Anna Susan Healy-Fenton, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Healy-Fenton, of Sunny Bank Farm, Stoke Prior, Herefordshire.

Mr J.E.D. Boatfield and Miss B.M. Cockin
The engagement is announced between Julian, second son of Mr and Mrs Brian Boatfield, of Houghton, Cambridgeshire, and Belinda, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Hanne Cockin, of Windhoek, Namibia.

Mr A.S. Hutton and Miss A.J. Shepherd
The engagement is announced between Alastair, elder son of Dr and Mrs Michael Hutton, of Granby, Nottinghamshire, and Amanda, daughter of Major Robert Shepherd, of Daneston, Aberdeenshire, and Margaret Shepherd, of Awaik, Bahrain.

Mr R.A. Stargard and Miss R.A. Nee
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr Roy Stargard, of Biggin Hill, Kent, and Miss Janet Clayton, of Battle, East Sussex, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr Robert Nee and Mrs Wendy Nee, of Langdon Green, Kent.

Mr M. Whimsey and Miss S. Walter
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Whimsey, of Calne, Wiltshire, and Suzanne, youngest daughter of Herr and Frau Manfred Walter, of Offenbach, Germany.

Mr R.W. Zephie and Miss C.M. Stranberg
The engagement is announced between Ronald, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Firis Zephie, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Christine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stranberg, of Boston, Massachusetts.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Sir Christopher Wren, architect and scientist, 1632; Henry Knollys, 1632; Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston, Prime Minister 1855-58 and 1859-65; Broadlands, Hampshire, 1784; Colin Campbell, Baron Clyde, field marshal, Glasgow, 1792.

James Hughes, author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Uffington, Berkshire, 1822; Odilon Redon, painter, Bordeaux, 1840; Arthur Rimbaud, poet, Charleville, France, 1854; John Dewey, educator and philosopher, Burlington, Vermont, 1859; Charles Ives, composer, Danbury, Connecticut, 1874; Sir James Chadwick, physicist, Nobel laureate 1935, Manchester, 1891.

DEATHS: Jacopo Della Quercia, sculptor, Bologna, 1438; William Morris, designer, London, 1896; Grace Darling, heroine of the 1832 shipwreck, Bamburgh, Northumberland, 1842; Sir Richard Burton, explorer and scholar, Trieste, 1890.

James Anthony Froude, historian, Kingsbridge, Devon, 1894; Arthur Henderson, Labour Party leader and statesman, Nobel Peace laureate 1934, London, 1935; Herbert Hoover, thirty-first American President 1929-33, New York, 1964; P.A.M. Dirac, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Florida, 1984; Sheila Scott, aviatrix, London, 1988.

George I crowned, 1714.
The boundary between Canada and the United States established at the forty-ninth parallel, 1818.
The first edition of *The Sunday Times* published, 1822.

Church news
Appointments
The Rev Judith Allford, Assistant Chaplain, Kings College Hospital, New Chapel, St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey (Guildford).

The Rev Colin Alsbury, Industrial Chaplain in the diocese of Chester to be Vicar, St Andrew's, Kenning (Peterborough).

The Rev Neville Beamer, Vicar, Yateley, to be also Rural Dean of Oditham (Winchester).

Meeting
Edinburgh University
Mr James Fairbairn, president of Edinburgh University Club of London, presided at the annual meeting held yesterday at the Calcutta Club, Dr. Tony Burnell, Regius Professor of Forensic Medicine at the university, was the speaker. A reception for new graduates was held later.

Basketmakers
Company
The following have been elected officers of the Basketmakers' Company for the ensuing year: Prime Warden, Mr Derek Long; Junior Warden, Mr John Hefferman.

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1882
FAX: 0171 481 9313

the farmer who does the work has 100 acres on the estate. He is on what is now being, and the Lord will help you to 100, underhand.

2 Timothy 2: 6, 7 (REB).

BIRTHS
BURTON - On Sunday 28th, October, to Pauline (née Trull), to Pauline and Steven, a beautiful son, John Oliver Trull.

BROWN - On 28th September 1995, to Vernon and Susan (née Berry), a daughter, Eleanor May.

CATTESDALE - On October 18th, to Sue (née Bower) and David, a daughter, Sophia Charlotte, a sister for Emma, and a son, David.

WINTER - On October 13th 1995 to Nicola (née Mutton) and Tony, a son, David George.

MURDOCH - On October 19th, to Maria (née Bole) and Kora (née Bole), a son, Douglas Sebastian Thomas Murdoch.

PLUMMER - On 16th October 1995 at St Mary's Hospital, Addington, to Sarah Rose and James, a beautiful daughter, India Scarlett Plummer.

RUGGLES - On October 16th at Princess Alexandra, Southwark, to Elizabeth (née Minto) and Simon, a wonderful son, Alexander George Ruggles. With special thanks to Sue Hunt.

STUTTER - On 19th October 1995, to Susan (née Bole) and John Stutter, Robert and Andrew, brother and sister to Thomas, David, Josephine, Barnaby and Oliver and uncle and aunt to Anna, Samuel, Harry, Benjamin, Laura and Joana.

TAPHER - On 16th October, to Alex (née Bole) and a daughter, Rose, a sister for Freddie and Anna.

WHITE - On October 16th at Addington, to Sarah Rose and James, a beautiful daughter, India Scarlett White. Any donations to the two baby boys, Harry and Charles.

DEATHS
ADDIS - On October 16th 1995 at home, Diana, beloved wife of Stewart who died on April 16th 1995. Much loved and supportive mother and friend of Dickson, Geoffrey, and daughter of John, and daughter of Charles. Funeral service, St. Mary's Church, Addington, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers please, but donations to Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

BANHAM - On St. Luke's Day, October 18th 1995, Teresa Middleton-Banham MA (Cantab) MD, died peacefully after a brief illness at the Kenwood Nursing Home, Truro. Wife of John, and mother of three. Donations to St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

COLE - On October 19th 1995, suddenly at Ditchley Hospital, after a short illness, Kenneth James aged 72, Brother of John, and son of Mrs. Mary Cole. Burial at Ditchley on 21st October 1995 at 12.30pm. No flowers or mourning by request. Any donations to the Ditchley Hospital, Ditchley, Devon EX10 0ET.

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DEATHS
CROSSLAND - At home very suddenly, on 18th October 1995, Charles Reginald Hugh Crossland, aged 58 years, died of cancer. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret, and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, Addington, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers please, but donations to Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

MONROE - On October 17th 1995, peacefully aged 82, William Robert C. Monroe, R.N., much loved husband of Prue, Jane and William. Service at Yeovil Crematorium on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30pm. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

LAMB BROWN - Laura, on October 18th, peacefully, in her 95th year, widow of Alan, mother of Catherine and James. A much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at 11.30am on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30pm, and at Yeovil Crematorium on Tuesday October 24th at 2.30pm. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

LAZARUS - On 19th October 1995, Sir Peter, at his home aged 96, leaving behind a wife and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

MOORE - On 19th October 1995, John Alec, aged 70 years, died of cancer. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret, and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

TOBIN - Rosemary (née Sillman), on October 18th 1995, at her home aged 91, leaving behind a husband and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

WEAR - Alan Ross, Ophthalmic Surgeon, of Weymouth, Dorset, on 18th October 1995, at his home aged 73, leaving behind a wife and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

WILLIAMS - On 19th October 1995, at his home aged 73, leaving behind a wife and three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London, on 21st October 1995 at 11am. No flowers. Any donations for St. Mary's Hospice, Taunton, C/O. Palmer Street, South Petherton, TA13 0GB.

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DEATHS
MUGGERIDGE - On 17th October 1995 at his home, aged 80, Harold George David, Brigadier MBE. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret, and three

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR DANIEL GOEDHUIS

Daniel Goedhuis, former Professor of Air Law at the University of Leiden, died on October 5 aged 90. He was born on January 31, 1905.

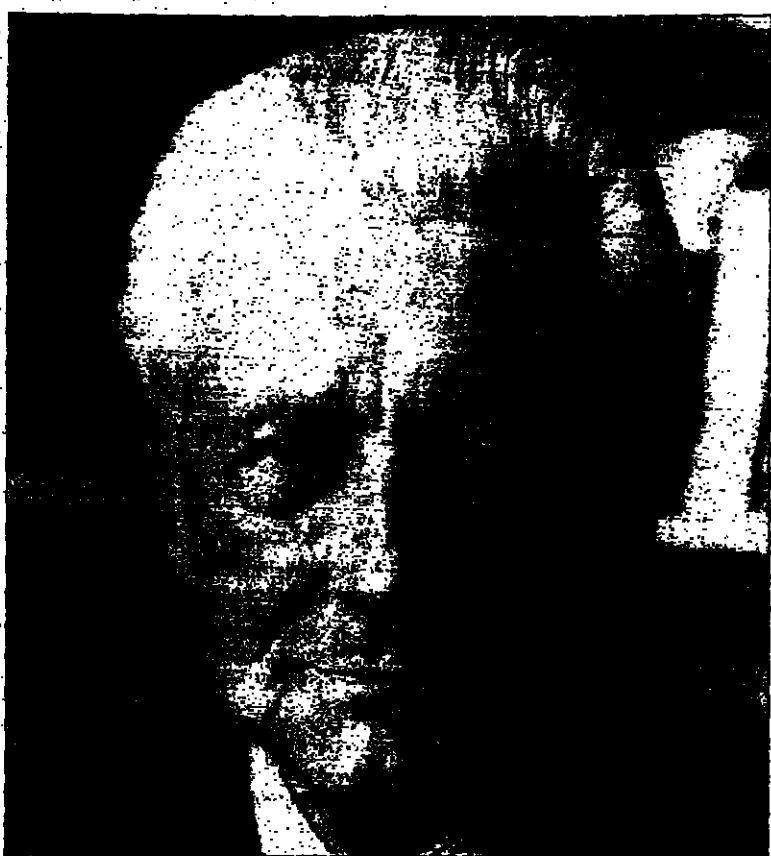
DANIEL GOEDHUIS, a leading Dutch authority on the law, politics and economics of international civil aviation, lived very happily in England for the greater part of his life. He was a remarkable example of the kind of person who shines at different times. A scholar and professor at a celebrated faculty of law, he was also a dashing equestrian, good enough to be much involved in the training of the Dutch cavalry team that won a gold medal at the Amsterdam Olympics of 1928. He was also a notably successful professional diplomat, especially during his time as an attaché in The Netherlands Embassy in London. Of easy manners, splendidly handsome and in great demand socially, he nevertheless proved himself a very tough and skilful negotiator for his country and for the Dutch national airline KLM.

His interest in aviation originated in 1922, when, as a messenger, he was invited to stay with English friends of his family who lived in London. He persuaded his parents that it would help him to accommodate the future if he went by the new KLM flight from Amsterdam, the KLM Company having been founded by Albert Plesman in 1920. The London service was by a one-engine plane with four wicker chairs, and the luggage was carried on one's lap.

Crossing the North Sea was thought too dangerous, so the route was via Calais and Dover to Croydon, taking four hours. Croydon had one runway and two wooden huts. He had forgotten about passports, so the KLM man at Croydon gave him a handwritten piece of paper with the KLM stamp and told him that would suffice. Apparently it did.

In 1923 Goedhuis went to Leiden University to read law, but interrupted his studies to indulge his love of horses and riding by attending the Amersfoort riding school for cavalry officers. He was there commissioned as a second lieutenant, then returned to the Leiden law school, where he took his master's degree. Soon afterwards he was delighted to be offered the post of legal adviser to KLM. The company sent him first to Paris and then to London before he took up his post in the head office in Amsterdam.

He was there for only two years, for in 1931 he was offered the attractive post of head of the central office of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), where he found himself concentrating on questions of the legal liability of air carriers for damage



resulting from accidents and delays. These questions involved the workings of the famous Warsaw Convention of 1929 on the unification of certain rules of carriage by air. Goedhuis's study of this convention gained him an LLD from Leiden University and is still a standard work. He soon became Secretary-General of IATA, and saw the election of Pan American Airways to IATA which thus ceased to be a solely European association of airlines.

His work with IATA also eventually brought him into contact with the Nazi leaders in Germany, and in particular with Goering, who had a great interest in the German national carrier, Luft Hansa. Perhaps imprudently, Goering was described by Goedhuis as "a buoyant extrovert" who "proved to be an excellent and amusing host, which made one forget what a rogue he really was".

In August 1939 the Dutch Government mobilised and Goedhuis was called up as a reservist officer. He found himself teaching young cavalry officers how to ride. There was still some hope that the Germans might respect Dutch neutrality; it was, thought, acknowledged that in a war between Germany and Britain, the planes of both countries might well overfly Netherlands territory. Hitler had, in September 1939, sent a

personal assurance to Queen Wilhelmina that Dutch territory would not be invaded. The Government, however, had accurate information about the true German intentions from its military attaché in Berlin, Colonel Sas; in May 1940 it put the Dutch forces on alert and Goedhuis was ordered to return to barracks.

Through some misunderstanding in the command, he was told to return home. The way to his house was across the golf course at Wassenaar; and there he heard the noise of many aircraft in the sky. On the golf course there was an anti-aircraft battery, and Goedhuis asked the officer in charge whether he could identify the planes. He said he thought they were German planes on their way to England. He was right in identifying them as German but wrong in supposing they were bound for England.

What happened was that the planes flew over the North Sea, then turned back and bombed Dutch airfields and barracks, killing both men and horses. The Dutch forces put up a fierce defence, but the destruction of the city of Rotterdam on May 13, and the threats to do the same to Amsterdam and Utrecht, impelled the Government to capitulate. It soon became clear to Goedhuis that he must go underground. He successfully did so and in

1943 managed to escape to England by a hazardous and adventurous journey via Belgium, France and Spain.

After the war Goedhuis became Professor of Air Law at Leiden. Subsequently Lord Knollys, then chairman of BOAC, invited Goedhuis to resume his work with IATA, at that time housed in a temporary office in London. This he did and took a prominent part in the Havana conference of 1945, where IATA was re-established as an association of the world's leading airlines, with a new headquarters in Montreal. He declined, however, to become Secretary-General of the new IATA; partly because he wanted to keep his connection with Leiden and partly because Van Royen, The Netherlands Foreign Minister, had suggested he should join the Dutch diplomatic service.

In 1945 he was appointed civil air attaché at the London Embassy, with the rank of Counsellor; and the following year was appointed to the same function at the embassies in Paris, Brussels, Madrid, Lisbon and the Scandinavian countries, expected to negotiate in all these countries for securing KLM landing rights.

He also obtained recognition for KLM in the United States and Australia; in the latter country the Air Minister at first proved unhelpful but ceased to be so after Goedhuis had charmed the Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, at dinner. Although extremely successful in his diplomatic efforts on behalf of The Netherlands and of KLM, Goedhuis was always disappointed that the Chicago conference of 1944 had accepted the principle of national sovereignty over airspace. He had worked for a principle of freedom of navigation analogous with the freedom of the high seas.

Goedhuis, while continuing to be a leading expert of aviation, acquired a complementary interest in outer space. He wrote many important articles on this subject, and was for some years chairman of the International Law Association's committee on the laws governing activities in space. This did not deter him from continuing his work on air law. He was president of the 1965 Council in The Hague, which revised the Warsaw Convention.

Goedhuis was from a family long established in Friesland, that Netherlands province with its own language. It was a nice paradox that this Friesland, justly proud of its provinciality, was at the same time someone who settled with great contentment in the English countryside. Goedhuis married Daphne Henderson in 1938. She died in 1973. In 1974 he married Pamela Denison. He is survived by her and the two sons and daughter of the first marriage.

EDWARD GRIFFITHS

Edward Griffiths, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, 1968-74, died after a stroke on October 18 aged 66. He was born on March 7, 1929.



EDDIE GRIFFITHS was old Labour through and through, a Welsh Christian socialist who could be relied on to support his leaders without ever wishing to shine in the chamber. Unfortunately, his parliamentary career began haltingly with a bad by-election result and ended disastrously with his expulsion from the party he had supported since his school days.

At a time when his constituency party in the Brightside division of Sheffield was moving to the Left, Griffiths stayed resolutely on the Right. A coup in the late summer of 1974, a few weeks before that year's second general election, saw Griffiths ousted and a trade unionist member of Labour's NEC, Joan Maynard, selected in his place.

He was charged with speaking rarely in the House, living in the constituency and being an enthusiastic pro-European. All this was true; but the fact was that his party activists wanted a more left-wing MP and that is what they got in Joan Maynard, who was known disapprovingly as "Stalin's Granny" by some of her colleagues.

Griffiths stood as an Independent Labour candidate in the October 1974 election and managed to poll 10,182 votes, a fair enough feat in Labour's heartland. But Maynard won easily with 18,108, though her majority of 7,926 was well down on his of 20,567 only seven months before.

Edward Griffiths was edu-

cated within the state system and at the University College of North Wales. Afterwards he became an industrial chemist.

His early political career was unspectacular — election to Flint County Council in 1964 and coming in third at his first parliamentary election when he stood for Denbigh in 1966.

Then, in 1968, a by-election at Sheffield, Brightside, gave him his big chance and he was duly elected. The result was highly disappointing for his party, however, with a swing to the Conservatives of more than 17 per cent and the Labour majority cut from 19,000 to just over 5,000. The figures were due, however, to a period of sustained Labour unpopularity rather than to any deficiency in Griffiths's personal campaign.

His Commons activities

were limited. His interventions were few and his membership of the House's Services Committee was the most senior appointment he obtained. The Brightside activists had an easy target when they decided they wanted another candidate.

After he left the Commons, Griffiths returned to work in the steel industry in Sheffield. Recently he retired to his home in North Wales and was able to concentrate on local preaching, his study of local history and his interest in genealogy. He was recovering from an operation when he had a stroke while in intensive care and died.

In 1954 he married Ella Griffiths (they shared the same surname) and she survives him with their son and daughter.

THE RT REV HUGH BLACKBURNE

The Right Rev Hugh Blackburne, Bishop of Theford, 1977-80, died on October 15 aged 83. He was born on June 4, 1912.

HUGH BLACKBURNE was one of the most courageous, skilled and engaging Church of England priests of his generation. On being congratulated upon becoming Bishop of Theford at the age of 65 he remarked, no doubt thinking of eccentric episcopal appointments: "Well, it might have been worse." For a brief three years he was a model suffragan bishop. He could deal with concealed firmness with those who were too bombastic, partridges and grouse were stacked in their deep freeze, he remarked in a relaxed tone that all his freezer contained was a number of bails which had expired in an unheated Norfolk church and, being a protected species, had to be preserved.

The son of a former Dean of Bristol who had served in the First World War on the Western Front as a chaplain for four years, Hugh Charles Blackburne was educated at Marlborough, Clare College and Westcott House, Cambridge, coming under the influence of its Principal, B.K. Cunningham. He was enthusiastic with a determined, lifelong sense of tolerance, drawing on the wisdom of Baron von Hügel. After ordination in 1937 and a curacy in Yorkshire, he became a chaplain in 1939, serving with the Guards, the 11th Armoured Division, and afterwards, like his father, at Sandhurst. (The funeral services for the First British soldiers to die in each world war were taken by Blackburne, father or son.)

In 1944 he married the widow of a pilot officer, Freda Davis, who supported his ministry with creative energy and commitment. In their postwar parishes, first at Milton in Hampshire and then at St Mary's, Harrow on the

Hill, he recognised the need for radical changes — much greater reforms than most bishops were inclined to support. To enable St Mary's to be a resource for the community he created a meeting-house in the churchyard despite much controversy.

He led youth parties on adventure holidays and his parishes were sought after by ordinands looking for a fresh approach. He instituted new methods of fund-raising and succeeded in breaking down some of the barriers to communion at Harrow on the Hill. It was so striking that he should agree to leave Harrow for nine dilapidated parishes in north Norfolk that some appointment-watchers suggested that he must have



gested that he must have blotted his copybook by impropriety, or by some over-enthusiasm.

The creation of the Hilborough Group, near Swaffham in Norfolk, first of nine and then of ten parishes, was his achievement (1961-72). He came at the suggestion of Bishop Laurence Fleming, who knew of the loneliness and depression of many villages with schools, shops and churches closing. Blackburne was meticulous in planning and personal attention, so that each village, however tiny, knew that it was valued. He shunned publicity and any form of indirect coercion. He did not ignore non-churchgoers or agnostics and realised

that the shy might be inarticulate but still be thinking hard. People still remember his hospitality and hard work dealing with dirty churches, tearing out rotting curtains, scrubbing floors and recruiting working parties. Big annual sales were held at Swaffham for the funds of each church in turn.

When the brewers closed the local pub, Blackburne, with Lady Roberts of Cockley Clay Hall as "licensee", created a new pub, "The Twenty Churches" which, with a family room, became a focus for the community, and still flourishes. In operation with the diocese he created training schemes to attract men and women of all types to a country ministry designed to be stable, relaxed and lively. The recent tragic breakdown of relationships in some of the parishes caused him much grief in his last months.

In 1972 he became vicar of Ranworth and chaplain to the Breads, using for his ministry not only the superlative church of St Helen's and his own well-tended garden, but also his boat and his windmill. He would sail visitors and tourists, knowing exactly where to spot a strike or a bittern. His large congregations on summer Sundays worshipped at services every detail of which, in readings, hymns and prayers had been slowly pondered, and the sermon was delivered as if it were a tentative, persuasive conversation with each individual in church. He had a gift for the unobtrusive question and for responding to the personalities of those he met. He liked listening to their views and was fond of the words of John Donne: "I thank him... that instructs me how to live."

His three years as Bishop of Theford (1977-1980) and his 15 years in retirement in Beccles and Swaffham gave him many friends. His membership was valued by diverse organisations, from Rotary to water safety committees.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter of their marriage and two stepchildren.

COMMANDER RICHARD FAVELL



Commander Richard Favell, DSC, wartime submarine captain, shipowner and conservationist, died on October 8 aged 81. He was born on March 12, 1914.

RICHARD FAVELL was one of the longest-serving submarine captains of the Second World War. He was destined for a brilliant career in the Royal Navy but came out of the Service in order to take over the family shipping firm of H.E. Moss, which was based in London, Liverpool and Newcastle. On his mother's death he went to live in Cornwall and for the next forty years served the county with dedication in many different fields.

Richard Molyneux Favell was born in Sheffield, the eldest son of Dr and Mrs Vernon Favell, who came to

live at Penberth, Cornwall, immediately after the First World War.

The young Favell entered the Royal Naval College Dartmouth in 1931 and went to sea in 1931. He was awarded the King's Dirk on leaving Dartmouth. He first went to sea in a submarine in 1936 and served as a submariner until the end of the war.

He won the DSC in 1944 when captain of HMS Trepasser in the Indian Ocean and in the Malacca Straits, service which included clandestine activities in landing Special Operations personnel behind the Japanese lines. One such disembarkation was spotted by some Burmese fishermen who had to be hijacked on the spot, lest the agents could be "blown". As guests, the Burmese fishermen left something to be desired, knowing no English

but being disgruntled at not being allowed to smoke.

Returning from the Navy in 1950, Favell took over what had become the oil-tanker firm of H.E. Moss. He continued running the business until he sold it to Cunard in 1967 but meanwhile had moved to live on the family estate in Cornwall. His father had bought it from Lord Falmouth but such was his son's generosity that it did not survive intact in the family for more than one generation.

He gave Penberth (one of the last small-boat fishing coves) together with the village of Treen (including the pub) to the National Trust. He also presented it with an area of cliffs, including one of Cornwall's most outstanding beaches.

Favell was a JP on the Penwith bench, where his mother had also sat. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall in 1971, having served as High Sheriff in 1963. He was a member of the General Synod of the Church of England for five years, a fellow of the Woodard Schools Corporation, president of the Cornwall Historic Churches Trust as well as being a churchwarden at St Levan for 31 years. Throughout this time, he planted and developed his garden in the valley at Penberth, carrying on the tradition of his father.

In 1940 he married Barbara Bridget Talbot, daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Ponsonby Talbot. She and their three daughters survive him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

RENTALS

IMMEDIATE, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57, 60, 63, 66, 69, 72, 75, 78, 81, 84, 87, 90, 93, 96, 99, 102, 105, 108, 111, 114, 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132, 135, 138, 141, 144, 147, 150, 153, 156, 159, 162, 165, 168, 171, 174, 177, 180, 183, 186, 189, 192, 195, 198, 201, 204, 207, 210, 213, 216, 219, 222, 225, 228, 231, 234, 237, 240, 243, 246, 249, 252, 255, 258, 261, 264, 267, 270, 273, 276, 279, 282, 285, 288, 291, 294, 297, 300, 303, 306, 309, 312, 315, 318, 321, 324, 327, 330, 333, 336, 339, 342, 345, 348, 351, 354, 357, 360, 363, 366, 369, 372, 375, 378, 381, 384, 387, 390, 393, 396, 399, 402, 405, 408, 411, 414, 417, 420, 423, 426, 429, 432, 435, 438, 441, 444, 447, 450, 453, 456, 459, 462, 465, 468, 471, 474, 477, 480, 483, 486, 489, 492, 495, 498, 501, 504, 507, 510, 513, 516, 519, 522, 525, 528, 531, 534, 537, 540, 543, 546, 549, 552, 555, 558, 561, 564, 567, 570, 573, 576, 579, 582, 585, 588, 591, 594, 597, 600, 603, 606, 609, 612, 615, 618, 621, 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NEWS

Howard survives Labour attack

Michael Howard emerged unscathed after comfortably surviving a Labour attack on his handling of the prison service and the sacking of its head, Derek Lewis.

In one of the noisiest and most acrimonious debates in recent Commons history, the Home Secretary was given a 49-vote majority after a speech in which he savagely criticised the Labour leadership and Mr Lewis. Pages 1, 11, 21

Prescriptions ruling will cost millions

The Government is facing a health bill of tens of millions of pounds after the European Court of Justice ruled that men are entitled to free prescriptions at 60, the same age as women. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said the Government must comply with the ruling at a cost to the taxpayer of £40 million for the first year. Page 1

Pill warning

Doctors urged women not to panic after one and a half million users of the oral contraceptive pill were advised to switch to a safer brand because of the risk of blood clots. Pages 1, 6

Asthma report

Air pollution is unlikely to cause asthma but it aggravates the condition of sufferers, a report found. The link between traffic, power stations and industrial fumes is weaker than thought. Page 2

Siamese twins die

The Asbury Siamese twins died within five minutes of each other from a bowel disease only a few days after medical staff had discussed allowing them to go home for Christmas. Page 3

Hole in Polo story

Marco Polo never went anywhere near China, and made up the famous accounts of journeys around the Far East, a new book suggests. Pages 5, 21

West book attacked

A book deal brokered by the Official Solicitor on behalf of Rosemary and Frederick West's children was "extremely distasteful", John Major said. Page 5

Fatty Lindaburgers

Linda McCartney promised stricter controls on her vegetarian products after burgers were found to contain twice as much fat as advertised. Page 5

Russian leader's roving hands

President Yeltsin surprised journalists and embarrassed his advisers at a Kremlin press conference by sneaking up on two women members of his staff and pinching them on the back. Although he was said to be looking "a little stiff but otherwise healthy", the incident will join the list of similarly strange episodes during Mr Yeltsin's four years in power. Page 1

Asylum seekers

The number of applications for asylum rose by nearly 50 per cent in the year to the end of June, to almost 38,000, according to Home Office figures. Page 8

Shadow shake-up

Tony Blair started a ruthless shake-up of his frontbench team by sacking seven shadow ministers to make way for high-flyers from the whips' office and the back benches. Pages 10, 21

Britain's role

Britain should make the most of a role at the heart of the European Union, Jacques Santer said. It has no need to "tilt at windmills" over sovereignty, as Michael Portillo did. Page 14

Claes cliffhanger

Willy Claes, the Nato secretary-general, appeared before the Belgian parliament in a last-ditch attempt to save himself from prosecution on charges of corruption. Page 15

Zanzibar votes

Zanzibar is holding its first multi-party elections for the parliament and presidency, and the incumbent President, Salim Amour, is on the ropes. Page 16

Hong Kong fury

Even Peking's allies in Hong Kong were seething at the shadow government's plans which threaten to emasculate the colony's Bill of Rights. Page 17



Blue iceberg, Antarctica, Cherry Alexander's picture which won the 1995 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

BUSINESS

Estate agents: Cornerstone, one of Britain's largest independent estate agency chains with 70 branches, went into receivership, underlining the severity of the housing market recession. Page 25

Tratlar House: The construction group warned the stock market it would turn in losses much worse than expected for the year that ended in September. Page 25

Polly Peck: Asil Nadir could be free to return to Britain next spring. His sister began legal proceedings seeking damages. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 14.4 to 3578.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.2 to 83.9 after a rise from \$1.5697 to \$1.5713 but a fall from DM2.237 to DM2.2213. Page 28

Crickets: The England tour party arrived in South Africa to be told by their hosts that they are part of a nation-building exercise. Michael Atherton is in confident mood, writes David Miller. Page 46

Tennis: British interest in the Brighton International tournament ended when Clare Wood was beaten by Helena Sukova, the No 6 seed, in round two. Page 45

Football: Julian Dicks, the West Ham defender, was suspended for three matches by an FA disciplinary commission after being found guilty of violence. Page 48

Rugby union: Cardiff are making fresh attempts to get Jonathan Davies, the Wales rugby league captain, released from his contract with Warrington. Page 48

Osborne at length: Running at four hours, the RSC's new production of John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* is a marathon evening, but fascinating. Page 37

Rhythm queen: Now 70 years old, Ruth Brown — the exotico jazz singer once dubbed "Miss Rhythm" — can still mount a great show, as Ronnie Scott's audiences are discovering. Page 38

Werther on the road: English Touring Opera has launched its new season with an imaginative staging of Massenet's *Werther*. Page 37

Pop on Friday: Alan Jackson on Human League; David Sinclair on new albums from Smashing Pumpkins and the Pretenders; Caitlin Moran on the stupid things superstars say. Page 39

Comically unhip: Griff Rhys Jones says he belongs to a club that includes Kenneth Branagh and Phil Collins "and we remain middle-of-the-road". Page 18

Fashion statement: "Haute couture is dead," Giles Coren meets Pierre Bergé, who built the Yves Saint Laurent empire. Page 19

Myth oh my! The Victorians covered Nelson with a hundred layers of varnish but now, says Libby Purves, the new Nelson Gallery is stripping it away. Page 19

Backchat: The British often show a deep distrust of foreigners. It's time we learnt to talk their language. Page 41

Dressing down: Returning from five years in America, Lucy Hodges has to break the news to her daughter — your school requires you to wear a uniform. Page 41

The international trade embargo on Iraq, now in its sixth year, is not easy to maintain. It has brought malnutrition and misery to the Iraqi people, while Saddam Hussein lives in royal splendour. There has been far more deception than United Nations arms inspectors realised. But unless Baghdad changes its ways and honestly fulfils its arms control commitments, the sanctions will not end soon. The New York Times

Preview: Joyce Grenfell, mistress of the comic monologue, is profiled in *Heroes of Comedy* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss salutes Molly Dineen, a busy fly on the barrack room wall. Page 47

Sprung from jail

Not since the Westland crisis has the fate of a minister appeared to hinge on so technical an issue. Clear enough were the passions of the Home Secretary, his opposite number and — towards the end of the battle — Tony Blair. The problems of the Prison Service remain, no closer to resolution. Page 21

Shadow boxing

It is hardly common practice for an organisation to allow its top managers to be elected. Why should the Labour Party do so? Page 21

Polo's Chinese chukka

Marco Polo did not set out to write the medieval equivalent of a *Financial Times* special report. Page 21

PHILIP HOWARD

Whether Rudyard Kipling or Jane Austen was homosexual (absurd notion) is not the most important fact about them. That Gladstone flagellated himself after being aroused by prostitutes makes that austere figure more human, just as Johnson's sexual temptations and remorse are interesting. Page 20

BERNARD LEVIN

There is a dark side to science, and many scientists acknowledge that darkness, which takes the form of "If it can be done, it must be done". When Professor Christian Barnard did the first heart transplant in 1967, the world was stunned, and he was hailed as not only one of the greatest scientists in all history, but almost as a man who had found the way to abolish death. Page 20

Professor Daniel Goeschel, Professor of Air Law at the University of Leiden; Edward Griffiths, Labour MP for Sheffield; The Right Rev Hugh Blackburn, Bishop of Theford; Commander Richard Favell, wartime submarine captain. Page 23

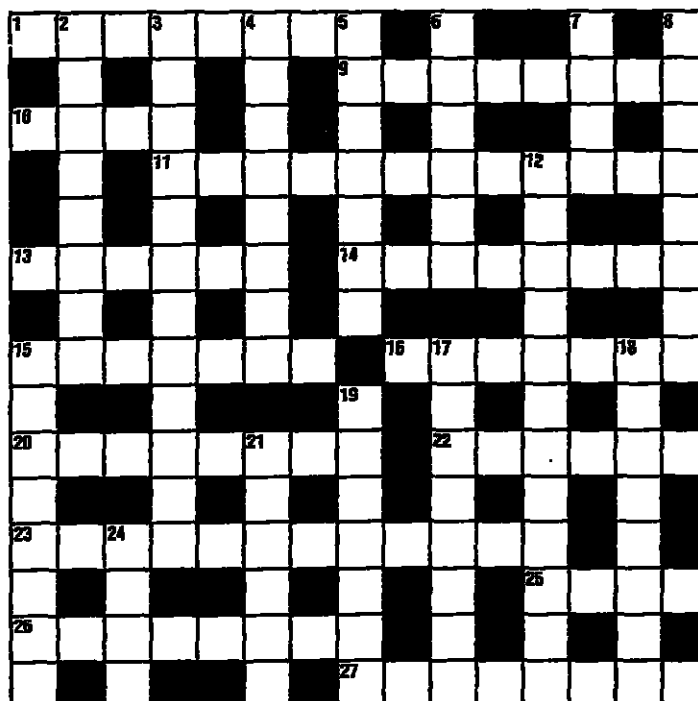
Single European army; charities using shock tactics; divorce reforms. Page 21

IN THE TIMES

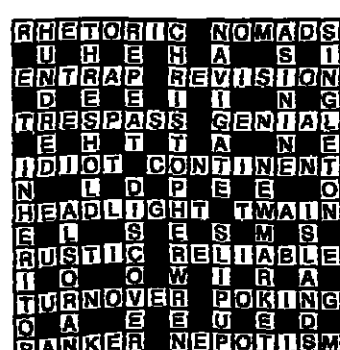
TRAVEL
Win a £3,000 holiday for two in Nepal

REVIEWS
Jonathan Meades on Conan's Mezzo;
Richard Morrison on guidelines for a politically correct Christmas

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,991



- ACROSS**
- From which comes a supply to the stomach? (8)
 - Breed rodents and bats (8)
 - It's fallen out of pocket (4)
 - Ditch vessel given pounding from cannon (6,6)
 - Man has to live in pain (6)
 - Bound to be embarrassed (8)
 - Preparing to put fastener in rough mass of hair (7)
 - I'll say this first for Ireland — it is green (7)
 - Press report Conservative majority achieved (8)
 - Mate for Hardy is assigned for Victory (6)
 - Introduce poor singer to step-by-step guide (7-5)
- DOWN**
- Russian takes head off the sofa (4)
 - Henry kept in by the runs — a painful illness (8)
 - Court music? (8)
 - Omitting nothing by hiding nothing (8)
 - Recent development in our editorial and feature pages (6, 6)
 - Go over the top of French island in climbing equipment (4, 2, 2)
 - Difficult to restrain son being playful (7)
 - Soundly defeat in the event (6)
 - What's suitable to frame a decree? Let it be Latin (4)
 - Edged 'ard to slip and was put down (8)
 - Echo on the drums (12)
 - One would not go down well among these names (4-4)
 - Badly brought up in youth, say, one makes an accessory (8)
 - Frame used by ship to maintain general direction (3-5)
 - Put down for soldiers by compulsory enlistment (7)
 - Lander had the makings of a poet and critic (6)
 - A second team within an alliance (4)



Solution to Puzzle No 19,990

TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of England	702
South East	703
West of England	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire & the Humber	707
East Midlands	708
West Midlands	709
East of Scotland	710
West of Scotland	711
North of Scotland	712
South of Scotland	713
London & the Home Counties	714
East of England	715
South East	716
West of England	717
North East	718
North West	719
Yorkshire & the Humber	720
East Midlands	721
West Midlands	722
East of Scotland	723
West of Scotland	724
North of Scotland	725
South of Scotland	726

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0500 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of England	702
South East	703
West of England	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire & the Humber	707
East Midlands	708
West Midlands	709
East of Scotland	710
West of Scotland	711
North of Scotland	712
South of Scotland	713
London & the Home Counties	714
East of England	715
South East	716
West of England	717
North East	718
North West	719
Yorkshire & the Humber	720
East Midlands	721
West Midlands	722
East of Scotland	723
West of Scotland	724
North of Scotland	725
South of Scotland	726

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 18°C (64°F); lowest day temp: Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, 10°C (50°F); highest night temp: Tyn-y-bryn, Carmarthenshire, 13°C (55°F); lowest night temp: Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, 5°C (41°F).

General: England and Wales will be cloudy today and patchy rain will move south to reach the southern counties during the afternoon. Clearer weather will spread from the north, bringing some sunshine to northern and central parts later in the day.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a bright day with sunny intervals, although showers are likely in the far north during the morning. Overnight, most places will remain dry.

London, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales: cloudy, outbreaks of rain dying out. Wind light, northerly. Max 15C (59F).

SE England, Channel Isles, SW England: cloudy, with outbreaks of rain. Wind light, north to northwest. Max 16C (61F).

E England, N Wales, N W England, Central N England: cloudy, bright or sunny spells developing. Wind light, northerly. Max 14C (57F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: the day should be mainly dry with good sunny spells. Wind light to moderate, northwesterly. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: bright with some sunshine, although Sunday will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

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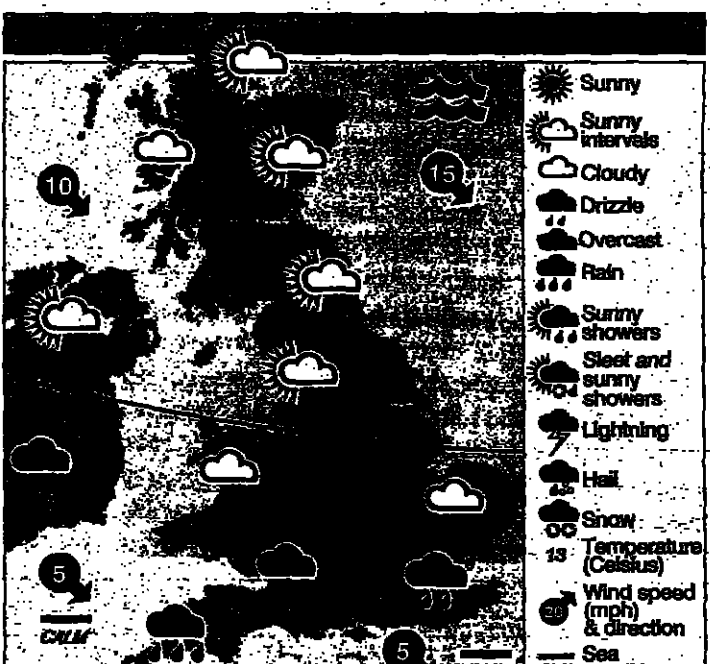
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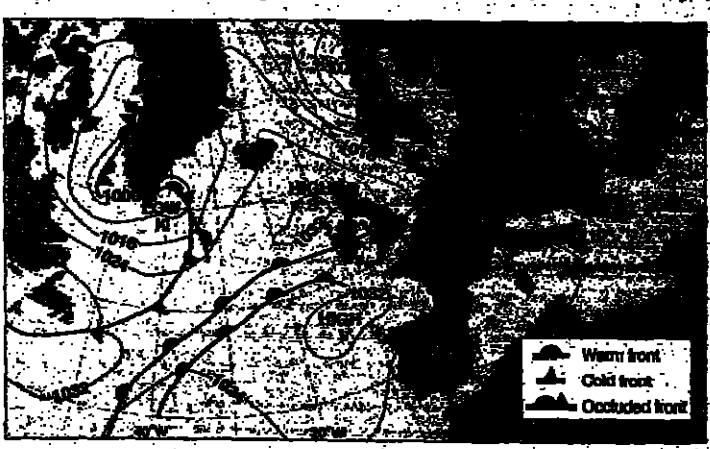
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Changes to chart from noon: high S and I merge and edge across UK, into Continent — and decline; low K moves NE and gradually deepens; low A fills and drifts NE.



Station	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	10.1	5.5	100	1015.0
Edinburgh	10.4	3.7	1054	1015.0
Aberdeen	10.6	3.7	1054	1015.0
Cardiff	10.7	3.7	1054	1015.0
Belfast	10.8	3.7	1054	1015.0
Manchester	10.9	3.7	1054	1015.0
Sheffield	11.0	3.7	1054	1015.0
Nottingham	11.1	3.7	1054	1015.0
Leeds	11.2	3.7	1054	1015.0
Bradford	11.3	3.7	1054	1015.0
York	11.4	3.7	1054	1015.0
Doncaster	11.5	3.7	1054	1015.0
Sheff Hallam	11.6	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	11.7	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	11.8	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	11.9	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.0	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.1	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.2	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.3	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.4	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.5	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.6	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.7	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.8	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	12.9	3.7	1054	1015.0
Don Valley	13.0	3.7	1054	1015.0

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Sun sets: 7.22 am. Sun sets: 5.58 pm. Moon sets: 4.11 pm. Moon sets: 2.58 am.

London 6.56 am to 7.34 am. Bristol 6.08 am to 7.44 am. Edinburgh 6.01 am to 7.55 am. Manchester 6.05 am to 7.46 am. Portsmouth 6.22 am to 7.53 am.

New Moon October 24.

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ARTS 37-39



James Wilby cool under pressure in A Patriot for Me

EDUCATION 41



Are pupils being left behind in the race for results?

SPORT 42-48



Atherton renews his hopes for winter of content

TWO PAGES OF LAW REPORTS 34, 35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20 1995

Nadir prepares for return to Britain as a free man

Lawyer accuses trial judge of error over £3.5m bail

BY JON ASHWORTH

ASIL NADIR could be free to return to Britain as early as next spring, it was claimed yesterday, as Bilge Nevzat, his sister, began legal proceedings seeking damages of up to £1 million. She is suing the Metropolitan Police and the Serious Fraud Office for personal injury and wrongful arrest.

Mrs Nevzat suffered a nervous breakdown and is now living in northern Cyprus. In a writ issued at the High Court, she alleges personal injury, malicious abuse of process in obtaining a warrant for her arrest,

and wrongful arrest and/or false imprisonment. The SFO said it would contest the claims. The action is the first in a series of steps that could pave the way for Mr Nadir's return — a move that would help rebuild embassies on the SFO.

The matter could come before the courts in February or March 1996. If a stay was granted, Mr Nadir would be free to return to Britain. He would then be expected to issue proceedings for "huge" damages against the SFO. Mr Krivinkas said: "He has a complete defence to

the charges, and will prove that the SFO foolishly raided South Audley [a company connected with Mr Nadir]. Everything since then has been a cover up."

In a second "ticking bomb", the House of Lords will next month rule on whether Mr Nadir actually jumped his £3.5 million bail when he fled Britain for northern Cyprus in May 1993. It is claimed that the trial judge failed to take the surety on Mr Nadir's bail at his arraignment. The bail funds are currently in limbo, awaiting the outcome of next month's hearing.

Cornerstone branches call in receivers

BY MARIANNE CURRIE AND ROBERT MILLER

TWO companies that own 70 branches of Cornerstone, one of Britain's largest independent estate agency chains, yesterday went into receivership, underlining the severity of the recession that still grips the housing market.

Tony Sney, chairman and chief executive of the Cornerstone companies, blamed the collapse on the Government's housing policies and vowed to vote for Tony Blair at the next general election. A former chief executive of Royal Life Estates, Mr Sney with Bill McIntosh, a colleague, bought 347 Cornerstone branches for £815 million in 1993 from Abbey National.

Some 200 other offices under the Cornerstone brand continue to trade normally. They are not owned by either Cornerstone Holdings or Cornerstone Estate Agency, the companies in receivership. Mr Sney said he had put hundreds of thousands of pounds of his own funds into the venture, and stood to lose "a lot of money" as a result of the collapse.

He said: "In spite of drastic cost-cutting, adverse market conditions have forced residential housing sales to decline. The state of the housing market in which Cornerstone operated was underlined yesterday by yet another gloomy set of monthly lending figures. The Building Societies Association said that gross mortgage lending fell to £27 billion in September, compared with nearly £3 billion in August. Net advances fell to £614 million from £750 million in the same period, while net

new commitments were down by £161 million at £2.6 billion. The two companies now in administrative receivership have offices in the West Country and on the South Coast of England and, between them, their 70 branches employed about 1,800 staff. Mr Sney said prospective buyers had expressed an interest in all but 12 of the offices, leaving an estimated 400 people likely to lose their jobs. Three managers in Hampshire, who had been planning a management buyout of 11 branches said yesterday they had been unable to complete the deal.

Mr Sney said: "John Major has left young people with the burden of negative equity which will blight their lives forever. Fortunately, more of my ventures have worked than failed so I am alright, but I have lost a lot of money."

"After 56 years of supporting the Conservatives I am going to vote for Tony Blair at the next election."

Ernst & Young, the accountants appointed as receivers, said it was too soon to say how many jobs were likely to be lost. Alan Lovett, a joint receiver, said: "One of our first concerns is to promote a point of contact for the Cornerstone customers affected by the receivership." Some offices are to be kept open to ensure that all current housing transactions are dealt with. A customer helpline has been set up on 01734 522432.

Recovery running out of steam, say chambers

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of Britain's chambers of commerce said yesterday that economic recovery in the UK is running out of steam, as growth continues to slow, while company heads suggest today that the slowdown in the economy will deepen for the rest of the year.

Ministers insist on the underlying strength of the economy, but the findings of two key business surveys put forward strong evidence that any improvement in the economy is now faltering. In its latest quarterly trends survey, the British Chambers of Commerce said that it was now clear that sustainable growth of about 3 per cent is looking increasingly beyond the economy's reach.

The BCC said its survey of more than 7,000 companies "shows that the engine of the recovery over the past two years is increasingly running out of steam."

Urging against any rise in interest rates, Robin Geldard, BCC president, said: "The Chancellor should refrain from stimulating demand in the short-term, but look to the long-term to address these problems which are barriers to greater non-inflationary growth of the economy."

In a separate survey, Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company, says today that companies expected a further marked slowdown in the economy in the run-up to Christmas. According to its quarterly survey of 1,400 directors, levels of optimism for increased sales, profits, new orders and in particular for exports all show significant falls.

This year has seen a 10 per cent fall in sales and I do not see prices rising until mid-1997," he said. "The pain will continue for some time yet."

Asda board moves to one-year contracts

BY SARAH BAGNALL



ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive at Asda, has moved from a three-year to a one-year rolling service contract at the supermarket group that he is credited with rescuing from the brink of receivership three years ago.

The news comes as rumours are circulating that Mr Norman is planning a move into politics. Mr Norman, 41, attended the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool last week, where he was said to have confirmed he was on the parliamentary candidates' list. But Mr Norman denied that his current plans included any such move.

He said: "There is no substance to the rumour that I have applied to be the parliamentary candidate for the Vale of York. It is a story that people have developed because that is the parliament-

ary seat I happen to live in and it has come up for selection."

He added that Asda has never made any party political donations of a level that needed disclosing in the company's annual accounts.

Mr Norman confirmed that he attended the Conservative Party conference but this was because he had been invited to talk at a fringe meeting on share options. This is an issue of particular interest to him as Asda granted share options to about half the supermarket group's employees just days before the Government changed their tax status. Mr Norman was among several captains of industry to lobby the Government for change.

Mr Norman revealed yesterday that all the company's directors had moved from three-year rolling contracts to one-year contracts. Mr Norman said: "My attitude

Trafalgar warns of severe losses

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the troubled engineering-to-shiping group, yesterday warned the market of deeper than losses than had previously been expected for the financial year that ended in September.

Trafalgar, which earlier this month said the Ritz hotel, said operating losses in the second half of the year would be "very considerably greater than the first half". At the interim stage pre-tax losses reached £48.2 million though that figure carried the costly re-fit of the QE2.

One analyst said that although the grimy tale for second-half trading was in line with City anticipations, the magnitude "was 10 times worse". Trafalgar, while refusing to give an estimate of the figures, has couched its warning in such terms as to suggest very serious problems. Some

estimates have pitched losses at £75 million, the price Trafalgar was paid for the Ritz. The statement, prompted by a share price slide on rumours that Hongkong Land was hoping to buy out of its 26 per cent stake, told of "material provisions" after a contracts review. Nigel Rich, chief executive, said he was disappointed by the figures but added: "We have a clear understanding of what needs to be done to get back to satisfactory profitability."

He said Hongkong Land, the Jardine offshoot, had confirmed its support. The Stock Exchange would not confirm it had launched an inquiry into Trafalgar's share price movements after a 30 per cent fall. At the close the shares were 3p up 21 1/2 p.

Grid due to forecast dividends

BY GEORGE SIVELL

NATIONAL GRID is expected within the next day or two to forecast likely dividend payments after it floats on the stock market in December and to explain its complex capital structure.

Both moves are being made in advance of the formal publication of listing particulars, planned for late November, in an effort to stop the share price surging in an embarrassing manner after flotation. Early government privatisations, such as British Telecom, were priced like an ordinary flotation, where advisers leave scope for a healthy 10-20 per cent rise in the shares once trading begins. However, the rises after flotation of the privatisation stocks drew criticism because of their size.

Inducement

Yorkshire Electricity, one of only five privatised electricity companies yet to attract a takeover bid, yesterday pledged to reward shareholders with £184 million in special dividends and to boost regular dividends by 10 per cent this year and next.

Barings action

The Barings bondholders who lost more than £50 million when the bank collapsed are to consider legal action against certain former senior executives of the bank. Evidence to issue the writs could come from a Singapore report into the Barings failure. Page 26

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Investors may sue ex-Barings executives

By Robert Miller

BARINGS bondholders who lost more than £50 million when the bank collapsed are to consider legal action against certain former senior executives of the bank. Evidence to issue the writs could come from a report into the Barings failure published on Tuesday by the Singapore authorities.

The Singapore report said that the Barings failure was due to "institutional incompetence" and "a total failure of internal controls" by senior management. It also accused certain senior executives of hindering the subsequent investigation.

Those who featured most prominently in the Singapore report are Peter Norris, former group chief executive officer, who is in the UK, and James Bax, who is in Singapore where he has surrendered his passport. Last night SJ Berwin, the solicitors representing the Barings bondholders, declined to comment on who the action group might issue writs against.

The investigations into the Barings collapse continue, with the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) in Singapore refusing to rule out a criminal prosecution against former senior Barings executives at the end of its inquiries.

The Serious Fraud Office in London has not yet closed its investigation and has not excluded the possibility that it, too, might take action against individuals. The SFO could proceed only if it found evidence of criminality rather than negligence. A leading fraud lawyer said yesterday that on the evidence to date negligence appeared to be the most likely conclusion.

The CAD continued to maintain that it might be prepared to enter into a plea-bargain with Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for the crash who is fighting extradition to Singapore on 11 charges of forgery and cheating. Mr Leeson's UK lawyer, Stephen Pollard of Kingsley Napley, said he would be interested in hearing what the CAD had in mind.

Meanwhile, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday mounted a spirited defence of the Bank's decision not to step in and rescue Barings. Mr George said during a visit to Kuala Lumpur: "Had we stepped in to save it, when the problem it faced was not in any sense systemic but was specific to that particular institution, we would, by that action, have introduced an unacceptable degree of moral hazard into the British banking system."



Lenny Pippin, chief executive of Albert Fisher North America, left, and Stephen Walls, group chairman

Irish win \$1bn investment

By Richard Thomson in New York

INTEL, the giant American microchip maker, is close to announcing the largest manufacturing investment ever made in Ireland with a \$1 billion addition to its existing factory.

Although the company has not yet confirmed the deal, the Irish Government is already celebrating such a large injection of funds, which is expected to create up to 3,000 jobs

over the next five years. Richard Bruton, the Enterprise and Employment Minister, said: "We are at the end of a successful process. I am very confident. Negotiations are at a very advanced stage." Intel said it would not announce a deal until every detail had been worked out. Under a deal with the IDA, the state investment agency, Intel will invest \$1.2 billion over five years.

The company's decision will be a big victory for Ireland in the intense competition between European countries to attract inward investment. Intel looked at several different countries, including Britain, as sites for the new investment. To strengthen its bid the Irish Government last week increased its incentive package, which industry sources said now included grants worth around £100 million.

Intel first began manufacturing at Leixlip in Kildare in 1989. The plant, which makes an advanced version of the Pentium processor, now employs 4,000 people.

Fisher profit falls after cost increases

RISING prawn prices and poor plaice catches slowed the seafood interests of Albert Fisher, the food-processing and distribution group (Christie Buckley writes).

Despite a strong first full-year contribution from Macfish, operating profit in seafood fell 7 per cent to £7.5 million. Stephen Walls, chairman, said the company had found difficulty passing on 30 per cent fish increases.

Pre-tax profits climbed 15 per cent to £39.5 million on sales up 21 per cent to £1.6 billion. The final dividend, due on January 5, was held at 1.9p, making 3.75p (3.71p). *Tempus, page 28*

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Slower money supply raises rate-cut hopes

MONEY supply figures for September gave fresh encouragement to the City view that inflationary pressures are moderating and the case is improving for a cut in interest rates. M4, the broad money aggregate monitored by the Treasury, rose only 0.4 per cent last month, after seasonal adjustment, the smallest month-on-month increase since April. This slowed the annual M4 growth rate to 8.2 per cent from 8.5 per cent in August, the first fall in the annual rate this year, even though the measure remains at the upper end of the Treasury's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range.

The M4 figures showed a £4.1 billion rise in bank and building society lending last month. Although this was well above the £2.2 billion rise in August, it was lower than the three-month average of £4.6 billion. Annual credit growth ticked up to 3.2 per cent from 3.1 per cent in August.

□ The Bundesbank left its key rates unchanged after a regular meeting of its policy-making council yesterday.

Johnson & Johnson bid

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, the US healthcare products conglomerate, has launched a \$1.6 billion hostile bid for Cordis Corporation, a leading company in cardiovascular treatment. Johnson & Johnson is offering \$100 cash per share, but still holds out hope of winning the agreement of the Cordis management to a merger. If an agreed merger goes ahead, J&J will offer \$105 per share in a share swap, valuing Cordis at \$1.7 billion. J&J wants to combine Cordis with its own interventional cardiovascular business, Johnson & Johnson Interventional Systems. It aims to merge its own unit into Cordis, retaining the Cordis name and management.

Revamp hits AT&T

RESTRUCTURING costs hit profits at AT&T, the American telecoms giant, in the third quarter. A \$1.1 billion charge to pay for eliminating 7,200 jobs and 1,300 contractors reduced earnings to \$262 million in the three months to September 30. A year earlier, AT&T earned \$1.05 billion, or 67 cents per share, after a charge for its acquisition of McCaw Cellular reduced profits by \$230 million. Excluding all charges, AT&T's profit was \$1.43 billion or 90 cents a share in the third quarter, up from \$1.28 billion or 82 cents per share, in the third quarter of 1994. Last month, AT&T announced a plan to split into three.

Unit trusts lobby Clarke

THE unit trust industry wants Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor to give it a role in the private retirement income planning market. In its Budget submission, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif), proposes two new pension vehicles based on unit trusts. Autif argues that as the need grows for people to make greater private provision in retirement, unit trusts can provide "simple, low-cost access to the investment market within a vehicle of proven safety". Autif says: "The independent pension account would be the simplest to construct and is an adaptation of the Personal Equity Plan."

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Taxmen adopt 'who bares, wins' strategy

Don't mess with the SIS

By Sara McConnell

"NOT quite the SAS but you get the flavour," Steve Matheson, the Inland Revenue's head of compliance, smiled grimly, relishing the thought that the special investigations section (SIS) had wrested £82.7 million from big corporations reluctant to bare their books.

And that was just part of the £6.1 billion of unpaid tax run to earth by other sections of the Revenue in the year to March 1995. This is equivalent to the yield from a 3.5 per cent increase in basic rate tax.

For "ghosts" with no tax records, "moonlighters" with

second jobs, companies slipping employees' untaxed perks with a nod and a wink and fraudulent accountants, the message is clear. Don't mess with the Inland Revenue.

Just in case anyone still doubted the Revenue's determination, Mr Matheson revealed that £1.1 billion of the total compliance yield had come from one company, which had been forced to make a huge "adjustment" to its tax bill.

There were no prizes for guessing that the bill had been adjusted in the Revenue's fa-

vour. This helped to bring the tax take from Revenue investigations and compliance to its highest level since 1990. Even without this boost, the take would have totalled £5 billion, against £4.6 billion in the previous year.

And the future will hold more of the same, promised Mr Matheson. Self assessment will be anything but a pushover. People may opt to work out their own tax and supply their own figures to the taxman but that does not mean the Revenue will take its eye off the ball.

FOREIGN RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.19	2.02
Austria Sch	18.73	18.23
Belgium F	46.36	44.57
Canada \$	2.20	2.04
Cyprus Cyp	0.74	0.74
Denmark Kr	6.57	6.47
Finland Mk	7.28	6.85
France F	2.85	2.85
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	382.00	387.00
Hong Kong \$	12.78	11.78
Ireland P	1.33	0.95
Israel Sh	6.0882	4.4482
Italy Lit	2815.00	2403.00
Japan Yen	172.00	158.50
Malta	0.586	0.541
Netherlands Gld	2.85	2.40
New Zealand \$	2.23	2.21
Norway Kr	10.46	8.60
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	nat.	5.41
Spain Ptas	166.60	166.60
Sweden Kr	11.36	10.26
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	198	7580.0
USA \$	1.85	1.85

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□ The removal of a Cornerstone □ Continentals zoom in on UK fund manager □ Mowlem's pilot bales out

No relief for the chain gang

THE collapse of a chain of estate agents is rather like the demise of a particularly fierce and unpopular neighbourhood dog — of great sadness to its owners but not throwing up much sympathy elsewhere. One of the surprises of the awful housing market is just how many high street outlets have survived it.

Housing transactions have halved from their two million-plus peak in the late 1980s, while the number of estate agents, according to industry figures, has only reduced from 14-15,000 to about 11,000. Either someone was making an awful lot of money in the market's heyday, or many are not making ends meet today — probably both, estate agents themselves concede.

As the industry headed into the downturn, it started with two advantages over other recession-stricken retailers. For small operators, overheads can be cut fairly easily to take account of falling workload — fewer houses on the books means less local paper advertising, for example, while a small branch office can be run, if necessary, by a staff of one. The bigger chains tended to have higher central office overheads, by contrast. The business has also shown an enviable

ability to push its rates up in bad times — 2 per cent tends to be the asking price today, although discounts are there, while some estate agents could manage on 1 per cent in happier times.

Many local chains stayed on the scene despite the disasters of the early 1990s because their then owners, the big financial services groups that went shopping in the late 1980s, grew tired of the loss-making businesses and sold them for nominal sums, often back to their original vendors. The clampdown on the mis-selling of personal finance also reduced the opportunities to sell their own product down this distribution route. The Cornerstone was bought by a refugee from one of the big chains and broken up into various parts, one of which collapsed yesterday.

The management was blaming the present Government for its troubles and the state of the housing market, which is a little hard to swallow. Falling prices and negative equity have more to do with the large numbers of

unsuitable purchasers stampeded into home ownership under Mrs Thatcher than any tax changes brought in by her successor. Whatever the rights and wrongs, the latest building society lending figures do little to encourage hopes of better times ahead. The industry itself accepts that many other estate agents will succumb before the ever-receding recovery in the housing market arrives.

No BAT in the Gartmore belfry

WHOEVER is in fairly advanced talks to buy Gartmore, it is not the market favourite, BAT Industries, and it would be intriguing to know just who started that rumour ball rolling.

BAT's Threadneedle offshoot comprises Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, two of the best known names in the retail business, and is more likely to go hunting for more of the same than attempt a play on a mature institutional



business like Gartmore. That Gartmore will eventually find a new owner is beyond doubt. A quarter of the shares are traded on the stock market, while the rest is in the hands of Banque Indosuez, which has indicated its wish to sell.

Potential buyers are urged to form an orderly queue, and that queue probably contains many number of ambitious overseas banks. The attraction is a total of £24 billion of UK funds controlled by the fourth-rated manager on the London market by annualised average return.

Fund managers are valued on a percentage of the funds they

control, and Gartmore's current rating, on a share price that has rocketed from well below £2 in July to 304p at last night's close, enjoys a 40 per cent premium to the average in a sector already inflated by bid hopes. The prime candidate now is the Nations-Bank because of a trading link to sell equity products in the US forged last year, but an American purchaser faces massive problems in accounting for good-will from such a purchase, and a continental buyer looks a better bet.

The situation will be clarified soon, if only because much more on Gartmore's share price could prompt the Takeover Panel to require an announcement.

Marshall clawed by legal Eagle

WHILE John Mowlem may be identified most with the travails of London's City airport, it was the activities of my learned friends elsewhere that cost chief

executive John Marshall his job. Mr Marshall's downfall was Mowlem's decision, as an ailing builder, to take on Eagle Star over the Carlton Gate housing development in Maida Vale. Insurance companies do not get to be as rich and powerful as Eagle Star by being over-generous in court, and the latter dug its heels in. Mowlem had been looking for £20 million in damages but ended with costs of £14 million, which were rolled into a last month's halfway loss.

The company has been on the point of selling its 90 per cent stake in London City airport — losses so far £70 million — for as long as anyone there can remember. A sale to the City via a formal prospectus to interested institutions stalled on the runway this summer, and the talk is now of unnamed trade buyers, although most of the obvious candidates have ruled themselves out. The market has heard it all before, but there are reasons now for more optimism.

First, the world airline industry is firmly on the flight path to recovery, particularly on short-haul routes — even though this has yet to be reflected in the passenger statistics from an airport renowned for the wide open spaces in its boarding halls. Secondly, the renaissance of Canary Wharf provides a new source of business on the airport's doorstep. But Mowlem has yet to be called to the departure lounge for its flight from London City, and nothing is expected before next spring.

Norman conquest

VERY few heads of quoted companies have made the leap from the stock market to Westminster, unlike self-made millionaires such as the Deputy Prime Minister who can expect the dividends from their family concerns to keep rolling in and support their life on the penurious salary of an MP. Archie Norman has at least one attribute that will serve him well in any future political career: a marked fondness for personal publicity. But one thing stands in his way. Safe Conservative seats, in his home territory in Yorkshire, are about as common as beluga caviar in the average food hall at Asda.

Yorkshire pledges £184m in bonuses

By ERIC REGULY

YORKSHIRE Electricity, one of only five privatised electricity companies yet to attract a takeover bid, yesterday pledged to reward shareholders with £184 million in special dividends and to boost regular dividends by 10 per cent this year and next.

The company expects to pay the special dividend, worth 100p a share, soon after an extraordinary general meeting in January. A share consolidation, the details of which were not released, will accompany the payment.

Yorkshire shares fell 15p to 899p, partly because the special dividend was below market expectations.

The shareholders' windfall

is this year's second. In January, Yorkshire paid a 90p special dividend and swapped 25 existing shares for 22 new shares.

Tony Coleman, finance director, denied that the package was designed to fend off a possible bidder. He said it was part of a long-term goal of returning value to shareholders. He added: "I don't really think this package would stand up to scrutiny as an effective anti-takeover device."

The City agreed, noting that the special dividend would boost gearing from 33 per cent to 75 per cent next March, leaving scope for further gearing.

Yorkshire also said that it

plans to distribute "most" of its interest in the National Grid, the electricity transmission company, to its own shareholders when it is floated later this year. Yorkshire, which owns 9.2 per cent of the Grid, will keep some shares to cover any excess capital gains tax that will have to be paid on the flotation.

Mr Coleman said that Yorkshire has been bombarded with calls from investment bankers with merger suggestions. But none has led to direct approaches. He said: "We believe there's a place for an independent player in this sector."

Tempos, page 28

Mowlem's chief resigns suddenly

By PHILIP PANGALOS

JOHN MARSHALL surprised the City yesterday by resigning as chief executive of John Mowlem, the loss-making construction group that owns London City airport, after just one year in the post (Pennington, this page).

Mowlem, which recently came off worse after a long dispute with Eagle Star and suffered a £31.8 million loss in its latest half-year's trading, has made John Gains, a director since 1992, the chief executive. Mr Marshall, named chief executive in 1994, having been managing director since 1989, will receive £200,000 compensation.

Ken Minton, the chairman, said the appointment of Mr Gains, who is currently responsible for Mowlem Con-

struction, is an important step in the group's refocusing from its "heavyweight and archaic" structure.

Mr Minton said: "It was agreed it was in the best interests of both parties if John Marshall and the company separated. Sometimes, the best thing is to part company. A CEO's job is very demanding, and, in a hostile climate, it gets even tougher."

He added: "The profit focus isn't there, the ethos isn't there. All that has got to change. I want to see a catharsis. The past is behind us. The other side of today's announcement is that John Gains is taking over. The company is undergoing significant restructuring and thrusting for profit."

Call to stop society speculators

THE Building Societies Association is pushing the Government to tighten up legislation to prevent society members of less than two years standing from getting bonuses or shares on conversion or takeover (Caroline Merrill writes).

Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Building Societies Association, speaking at the Prebon Yamane Housing Finance Seminar yesterday, said: "The association believes that the right to receive cash or near-cash substitutes such as shares on conversion ought to be based on a fair or reasonable period of ownership and not simply acquired overnight on the basis of pure speculation."

Board pay rises at twice general level

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DIRECTORS' salaries are increasing on average at twice the rate of general pay rises, a new remuneration study said yesterday.

Companies are beginning to put into practice the recommendations for greater self-regulation proposed by the government-backed inquiry into boardroom pay, headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman of Marks & Spencer.

The survey of a sample of more than 730 directors, including almost 90 company chief executives, carried out by consultants Bacon & Woodrow, suggested that salary increases for main board directors over the past year has been 7.5 per cent, and 5.9 per cent for chief executives. Such

increases compare with wage rises across the economy running at 3-4 per cent, according to pay analysts.

The survey said that the differential between board members and chief executives is narrowing, in response to public unease.

But Bacon & Woodrow pointed out that salaries were only part of the picture for company directors, with their total packages worth up to twice as much as their salaries alone.

The survey said that boardroom members received an average of more than £212,000, made up of basic salary, bonuses and fixed benefits, while chief executives' packages averaged almost £400,000 in all.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Mystery bull push puts Pearson at a premium

SHARES of Pearson, the media group, climbed 18p to 660p ahead of a presentation in the City later today, arranged by Panmure Gordon.

The group is expected to address questions about future strategy, investment and potential acquisitions. It may now also be forced to face questions about possible bids for the group and break-up values.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, stuck its neck out a few weeks ago by forecasting a break-up value for Pearson of 59p a share. This has clearly whetted the appetites of the speculators, who see huge potential profits.

Yesterday, no fewer than three other brokers, including Cazenove, the company's own adviser, were linked with producing their own break-up values. The other two were ABN Amro Hoare Govett and James Capel.

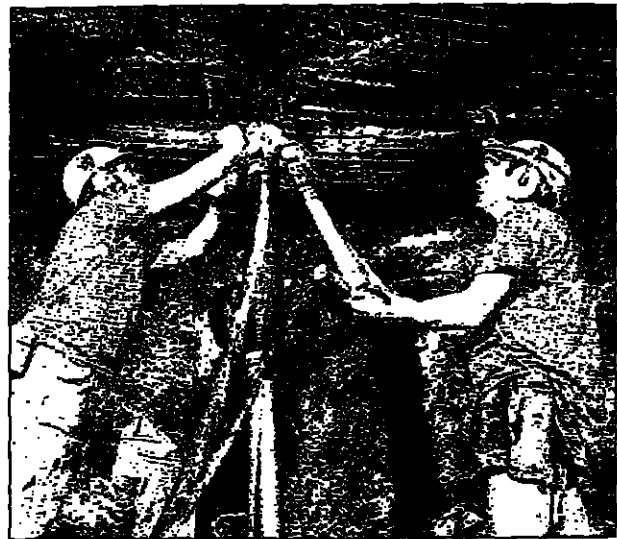
Detective work by *The Times* has established that none of them has even vaguely discussed the possibility of establishing a break-up value for the group in the event of a bid, and in the case of Hoare, has not even been a buyer of the stock.

What seems more likely is that one large institution, which should know better, has built up a large bull position in the stock and has been circulating various stories in order to drive the price higher, possibly before taking a profit. Either way, it has ensured a lively time for the company at today's meeting.

The rest of the equity market showed signs of running out of steam after this week's record-breaking run. Attempts by hard-pressed market-makers to call prices lower met with limited success. The FT-SE 100 index, down more than 20 points at one stage, eventually finished 14.4 off at 3,578.6. A total of 659 million shares were traded.

There was another early flurry of speculative activity in the financial sector, with insurance shares chased sharply higher before closing off their best. This was no doubt encouraged by Smith New Court, the broker, which has been bearish of the insurers for some time, but clearly now feels that its recent contraction is going to result in a further spate of takeovers.

The best performances were seen in Commercial Union, up 6p at 630p after touching



Coal face friction as Dobson Park fights off a hostile bid

652p, and Guardian Royal Exchange, 8p to 249p. Profit-taking led recent high-flyers with falls. Royal Bank of Scotland was off 6p at 548p and Royal Insurance down 10p at 40p.

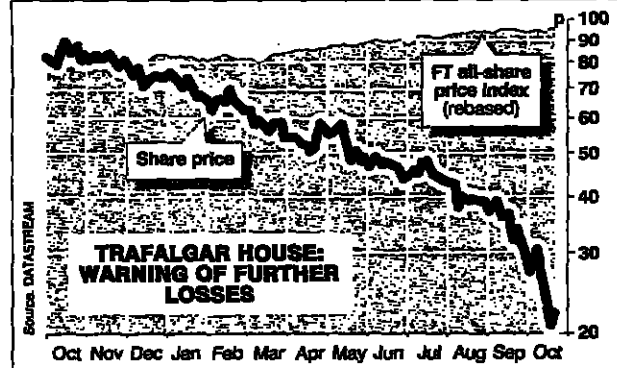
Trafalgar House rallied 1 1/2p to 22 1/2p after the troubled Q&E shipping to construction group reaffirmed that it still had the support of its biggest

News that Johnson & Johnson, the US healthcare group, is bidding \$1.6 billion for Cordis left Smith & Nephew looking dejected. The price lost 5p at 188 1/2p as eight million shares were traded. It had been hoped J&J would bid for S&N, which has come up from 165p this year.

shareholder. Hongkong Land, with 26 per cent of Trafalgar, says it remains a long-term investor and is supportive of actions being taken by the management.

But Nigel Rich, chief executive of Trafalgar, said that results from its power engineering, minerals and metals and French engineering divisions would be sharply down.

Second-half trading losses



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

via Kleinwort Benson, the broker. The shares were not part of a holding controlled by Robert Fleming Investment Management.

Garmore jumped 11p to 304p, convinced that Banque Indosuez is close to clinching a deal to sell its 75 per cent stake. There was talk that BAT Industries, down 1p at 537p, which owns Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, was eager to clinch the deal. Now there is talk that National Westminster Bank, 1p lighter at 659p, is making a move.

Dobson Park Industries marked time at 124p ahead of publication later today of its defence document. The group is currently fighting off an unwanted bid from Harnischfeger, the US mining equipment group. Brokers say Dobson's ability to stay independent will hinge on the level of profits it can forecast. The chances are Dobson Park will be able to produce profits above City forecasts which, in turn, will at least force Harnischfeger to increase its offer of 10p a share.

Trip International, the music company, tumbled 27p to 59p, stretching the fall of the past two days to 39p.

Interim figures from Ferguson International failed to live up to expectations and left the shares reeling 40p to 268p. Pre-tax profits were down £400,000 at £5.6 million following a charge of £1.5 million at its hangers' division. Sales during September were disappointing and the outlook for the year appears uncertain.

GILTED-EDGED: Prices recovered from a hesitant start and managed to make modest headway in spite of a mixed reception by investors to the latest bank lending figures and a higher than expected rise in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve's index for October.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt rose 1/2p to end the day at £105 1/2 as the number of contract completed reached 43,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 climbed 1/2p to 97 1/2p, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks better at £101.

NEW YORK: Investors on Wall Street were looking for a new focus of attention, with important results behind them, and the Dow Jones industrial average was in a lull. By midday it was 0.72 points up at 4,778.24.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4778.24 (+0.72)
S&P Composite	587.09 (+0.41)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	17955.36 (+99.39)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9561.61 (+79.91)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	456.4 (-1.29)
Sydney:	
ASX	2111.9 (+0.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2179.60 (+15.27)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2088.74 (+16.18)
Brussels:	
General	7731.25 (+4.79)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1797.30 (+13.58)
Zurich:	
SWX	700.00 (+2.28)
London:	
FT 100	3578.6 (+14.4)
FTSE Mid 250	3038.2 (+5.1)
FTSE-A 50	1779.4 (+5.9)
FTSE-Euro 100	1399.54 (+12.98)
FTSE-A 100	1779.34 (+5.47)
FTSE Non Financials	1860.80 (+7.03)
FTSE Financials	1111.20 (+0.11)
FT Govt 50	92.91 (+0.22)
FT Govt 100	92.91 (+0.22)
SEAO Volume	659.8m
USM (Dax)	181.44 (+0.17)
USM (S&P)	1.5713 (+0.0109)
German Mark	2.2513 (+0.014)
Exchange Index	83.9 (-0.3)
Bank of England official rate (4pm)	11.00%
ESDI	1.1923
API	150.6 Sep (1.9%) Jan 1987-100
RPI	149.2 Sep (2.1%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Cons Coal (50)	58
Euro Sales Fin	130
German Str Wts	19
Hay & Robinson	38
Indpt Radio	11
Multimedia (45)	61
Murray Vei	105
Quintess	86
Pemberton	60
Pictet British (100)	103
Preston Nth (400)	400
SCS Sat Sys (125)	121
Univ Sal (149)	183
Upton & Stn Wts	1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alumac n/p (300)	113
Anglo-East n/p (105)	5
Barrs n/p (116)	2
Forch Ports n/p (400)	91
RMC n/p (950)	128

MAJOR CHANGES

RSE:	
Accom Comp	144p (+31p)
Telecom	829p (+39p)
Forch Ports	587p (+25p)
Garmore	304p (+11p)
Miel	350p (+10p)
WH Smith	389p (+11p)
James Shoud	425p (+12p)
Argos	512p (+14p)
Stives Group	428p (+9p)
Danka Bus Systems	685p (+10p)
Takeda Chem	904p (+12p)
Reed Int	864p (+10p)
Sohabys	889p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Ferguson Int	268p (-40p)
Treat	354p (-30p)
Ranger	420p (-20p)
Laird	419p (-45p)
Airtours	343p (-10p)
Royal	401p (-10p)
Robeco	430p (-10p)
Tabet & Britten	448p (-10p)
Magley	415p (-8p)
Chesapeake	454p (-11p)
General Accident	675p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Trafalgar's Waterloo?

THE excited bears prowling around Trafalgar House shares on Wednesday were no doubt hoping for news that the *fatpans* had given up and gone back to Hong Kong. In the event, the only positive piece of information to emerge in yesterday's trading update was a commitment from Hongkong Land to remain a long-term investor in Trafalgar. This is not evidence of compassion, as the men who run the Jardine Matheson empire would no doubt dearly love to be shot of this troublesome company which the market reckons could make losses of between £150-£200 million this year. Hurried into making a statement after Wednesday's fall in the share price, Trafalgar painted a bleak picture - continuing poor performance and more provisions on engineering contracts.

Hongkong Land has no choice but to stick it

out. It has invested some £350 million in Trafalgar, which cannot be worth more than £100 million today. Even if it chose to sell, could it find a buyer? The key question is the cash drain, which exceeded £100 million at the half year and must be stemmed if the company is to have a future. Trafalgar hinted that the cash position "stabilised" in the second half, with net debt reduced. However, restructuring and provisions on contracts will include substantial cash costs. Trafalgar's asset base is also under pressure and it needs to reduce its borrowings. It could sell Ideal Homes or its cruise ships, but it is earning a misery return on ships, which will need to be written down substantially. To sell housebuilding would mean jettisoning one of the few good earners. Hongkong Land may be in for a longer haul than even it imagines.

Albert Fisher

TODAY'S consumer cannot be bothered to wash lettuce and slice tomatoes, and much of the future growth of Albert Fisher assumes that the lazy trend will continue.

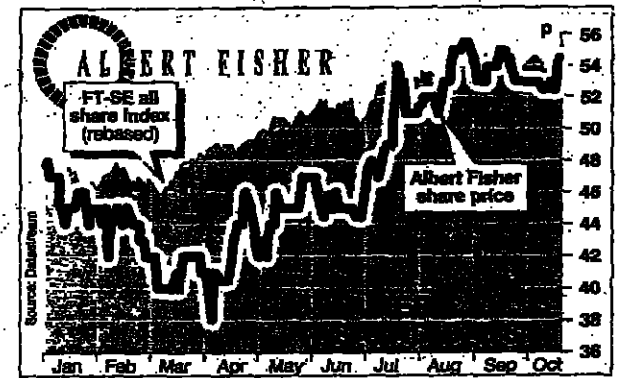
Fisher is investing more in added value food products, such as prepared salads and breaded fish, where margins are better than in pure distribution. Expansion in this division - sales have increased fivefold over the past four years - has been a key part of the restructuring of the group, which has suffered from some ill-judged acquisitions.

Loss-makers have been steadily eliminated and Albert Fisher now looks a leaner machine. Assuming the company is not distracted by further acquisition opportunities, investors can hope that management will

focus its energy on delivering volume growth in Europe, which currently is a sluggish performer.

Last year, Europe's performance was eclipsed by the success of the North American division which, with the help of a number of successful acquisitions, transformed the previous year's rotten results into healthy profits. Albert

Fisher is still prone to natural disasters. Poor fish catches this year pushed up the cost of raw materials, chiefly prawns and plaice, reducing the overall margin. However, the prospective p/e of Albert Fisher is about 10.5, which, if the company can realise its potential, makes it a reasonable catch.



Yorkshire Elec

YORKSHIRE Electricity has a problem. It is one of the few regional electricity companies committed to independence and it needs to win over its shareholders. The question is how to blow their loyalty without blowing the balance sheet to smithereens.

A compromise was reached yesterday. The company will consolidate its shares and pay a special 100p dividend, worth £184 million in total. The incentive comes on top of an earlier 22-for-25 consolidation and 90p special dividend.

Will the new package work? Yorkshire shares fell but that should not be interpreted as the start of rebellion by investors. Shareholder expectation simply got ahead of itself: the special dividend had been widely flagged and some shareholders had hoped for a higher payout. On balance, investors should stick with Yorkshire.

The special dividends demonstrate that management is committed to enhance shareholder value. More important, they leave room for more. The payments will boost gearing to about 100 per cent, from 33 per cent at the end of the last financial year, leaving plenty of room for more generosity, or, if a hostile takeover offer is launched, a full-blown defence that could take the shares much higher.

Rubicon

THE big winners in yesterday's deal at Rubicon, the engineering group, were the venture-capital investors in the buyout of Calder which has been sold to Rubicon for £94 million. The metal-basher was sold by Cookson in March 1994 for £72 million and the backers saw their investment gain 30 per cent in value over 18 months.

Rubicon itself underwent a management takeover and reconstruction in 1992, sell-

ing its shopping operation and developing a business making metal casings for personal computers. The company wants to follow OEM customers such as IBM and Compaq into the US, but balance-sheet constraints hold it back.

Yesterday's deal brings with it two useful additions: aluminium castings and rare earth magnets providing Rubicon with an entry into OEM car manufacturers. Calder's lead products and aluminium alloys business are cash-generative but look less interesting and could be sold.

Calder's profits have been growing fast. In part due to cost-cutting but sales should reach £200 million this year from £153 million in 1993. Rubicon is buying Calder on a reasonable multiple of 11 times estimated current-year earnings and gearing should fall, leaving the company scope for its US ambitions.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
CRUDE OILS \$/barrel FOB			
Dec	919.98	Mar	1035.31
May	949.98	Jul	1005.00
Aug	959.98	Oct	975.00
Nov	969.98	Dec	985.00
Jan	999.98	Feb	1015.00
Feb	1019.98	Mar	1035.00
Mar	1039.98	Apr	1055.00
Apr	1059.98	May	1075.00
May	1099.98	Jun	1105.00
Jun	1119.98	Jul	1125.00
Jul	1139.98	Aug	1145.00
Aug	1159.98	Sep	1165.00
Sep	1179.98	Oct	1185.00
Oct	1199.98	Nov	1205.00
Nov	1219.98	Dec	1225.00
Dec	1239.98	Jan	1245.00
Jan	1269.98	Feb	1285.00
Feb	1309.98	Mar	1325.00
Mar	1349.98	Apr	1385.00
Apr	1409.98	May	1445.00
May	1469.98	Jun	1505.00
Jun	1529.98	Jul	1565.00
Jul	1589.98	Aug	1625.00
Aug	1649.98	Sep	1685.00
Sep	1709.98	Oct	1745.00
Oct	1769.98	Nov	1805.00
Nov	1829.98	Dec	1865.00
Dec	1889.98	Jan	1925.00
Jan	1949.98	Feb	1985.00
Feb	2009.98	Mar	2045.00
Mar	2069.98	Apr	2105.00
Apr	2129.98	May	2165.00
May	2189.98	Jun	2225.00
Jun	2249.98	Jul	2285.00
Jul	2309.98	Aug	2345.00
Aug	2369.98	Sep	2405.00
Sep	2429.98	Oct	2465.00
Oct	2489.98	Nov	2525.00
Nov	2549.98	Dec	2585.00
Dec	2609.98	Jan	2645.00
Jan	2669.98	Feb	2705.00
Feb	2729.98	Mar	2765.00
Mar	2789.98	Apr	2825.00
Apr	2849.98	May	2885.00
May	2909.98	Jun	2945.00
Jun	2969.98	Jul	3005.00
Jul	3029.98	Aug	3065.00
Aug	3089.98	Sep	3125.00
Sep	3149.98	Oct	3185.00
Oct	3209.98	Nov	3245.00
Nov	3269.98	Dec	3305.00
Dec	3329.98	Jan	3365.00
Jan	3389.98	Feb	3425.00
Feb	3449.98	Mar	3485.00
Mar	3509.98	Apr	3545.00
Apr	3569.98	May	3605.00
May	3629.98	Jun	3665.00
Jun	3689.98	Jul	3725.00
Jul	3749.98	Aug	3785.00
Aug	3809.98	Sep	3845.00
Sep	3869.98	Oct	3905.00
Oct	3929.98	Nov	3965.00
Nov	3989.98	Dec	4025.00
Dec	4049.98	Jan	4085.00
Jan	4109.98	Feb	4145.00
Feb	4169.98	Mar	4205.00
Mar	4229.98	Apr	4265.00
Apr	4289.98	May	4325.00
May	4349.98	Jun	4385.00
Jun	4409.98	Jul	4445.00
Jul	4469.98	Aug	4505.00
Aug	4529.98	Sep	4565.00
Sep	4589.98	Oct	4625.00
Oct	4649.98	Nov	4685.00
Nov	4709.98	Dec	4745.00
Dec	4769.98	Jan	4805.00
Jan	4829.98	Feb	4865.00
Feb	4889.98	Mar	4925.00
Mar	4949.98	Apr	4985.00
Apr	5009.98	May	5045.00
May	5069.98	Jun	5105.00
Jun	5129.98	Jul	5165.00
Jul	5189.98	Aug	5225.00
Aug	5249.98	Sep	5285.00
Sep	5309.98	Oct	5345.00
Oct	5369.98	Nov	5405.00
Nov	5429.98	Dec	5465.00
Dec	5489.98	Jan	5525.00
Jan	5549.98	Feb	5585.00
Feb	5609.98	Mar	5645.00
Mar	5669.98	Apr	5705.00
Apr	5729.98	May	5765.00
May	5789.98	Jun	5825.00
Jun	5849.98	Jul	5885.00
Jul	5909.98	Aug	5945.00
Aug	5969.98	Sep	6005.00
Sep	6029.98	Oct	6065.00
Oct	6089.98	Nov	6125.00
Nov	6149.98	Dec	6185.00
Dec	6209.98	Jan	6245.00
Jan	6269.98	Feb	6305.00
Feb	6329.98	Mar	6365.00
Mar	6389.98	Apr	6425.00
Apr	6449.98	May	6485.00
May	6509.98	Jun	6545.00
Jun	6569.98	Jul	6605.00
Jul	6629.98	Aug	6665.00
Aug	6689.98	Sep	6725.00
Sep	6749.98	Oct	6785.00
Oct	6809.98	Nov	6845.00
Nov	6869.98	Dec	6905.00
Dec	6929.98	Jan	6965.00
Jan	6989.98	Feb	7025.00
Feb	7049.98	Mar	7085.00
Mar	7109.98	Apr	7145.00
Apr	7169.98	May	7205.00
May	7229.98	Jun	7265.00
Jun	7289.98	Jul	7325.00
Jul	7349.98	Aug	7385.00
Aug	7409.98	Sep	7445.00
Sep	7469.98	Oct	7505.00

Marianne Curphey explains why BA is watching the crossfire

Air talks threaten major turbulence



A successful deal involving USAir and United could prompt British Airways and American to join a scramble to forge new alliances

Just when the airline industry appeared to be over the worst of its turbulence, USAir's announcement that it was in potential merger talks with American Airlines and United sent the markets reeling for their seatbelts.

Sceptics in the City believe the deal has only a 50 per cent chance of success, but say that if it does, it will be the most significant development in the airline industry for several years.

Should the deal proceed, the suitors would emerge as the largest air carrier group in the US. If the successful partner is United Airlines, which many believe to be the most likely, both British Airways, which has a 25 per cent stake in USAir, and American, will be seeking to forge new alliances to match it.

The news prompted speculation that a USAir deal would be only the first of a raft of mergers and takeovers to sweep the industry. In fact, it is far more likely to lead to increased international alliances, including more flight-code sharing, between national airlines, and some consolidation in the US domestic market rather than a spate of intercontinental acquisitions.

not affect networks outside Europe.

For that reason, it is cheaper and easier for airlines to forge alliances and combine marketing and frequent-flyer programmes than to take over one another. Over the past four years, code-sharing deals doubled to more than 400 worldwide as carriers used them as a way round regulations preventing them flying freely between two airports.

About 70 per cent of these transactions are small-scale deals between national and regional carriers, but the rest involve deals between much larger carriers. One of the most successful examples of cross-border alliances is the 1992 deal between KLM, the Dutch airline, and Northwest Airlines, the US carrier, in which it has a 25 per cent equity stake.

The airlines were granted immunity from US anti-trust laws as part of a bilateral air-service agreement between The Netherlands and the US.

They now have an integrated brand for business travellers, and set prices together.

KLM and Northwest are estimated to have increased their combined market share in transatlantic flights from 7 to 11 per cent, equivalent to an extra 350,000 passengers a year, with cost-saving benefits of about \$300 million.

Such alliances allow airlines to offer passengers an extended route network without having to lay on extra services themselves. The best partner-

ships are between those with little or no route overlap, for example, Lufthansa and United, which have a total of 400 routes but only a couple in common.

Neither have cemented the relationship with an equity stake, but United has publicly announced that it emerges from this deal with an improved alliance in the United States.

Delta, which has a code-sharing agreement with Virgin, has had a 5 per cent stake in Swissair for several years and enjoyed a successful partnership. It has no equity stake in Virgin.

BA's deals, however, have been less successful. The stock market regards a bid for USAir as a potentially profitable way for BA to extricate itself from the unprofitable investment it bought two years ago. USAir has lost \$3 billion over the past five years, forcing BA to write down its \$400 million holding by about half last May.

Nevertheless, Caroline Slater, Kleinwort Benson's airline analyst, estimates BA's alliance with USAir has brought it \$100 million in cost savings and increased traffic. BA's reshuffle with Qantas could bring it a further \$50 million.

Mike Powell, of NatWest Markets, believes the chances of USAir being acquired by one of the large US carriers are only 50-50 because of the unresolved problems between it and the unions with which it is trying to negotiate reduction in wage costs.

He said: "USAir has been working very hard to sort the problems out, but it is wrong to assume a new manager could walk in and be able to clear up the problem right away. BA is not entirely in the driving seat, but it is keeping its fingers very firmly crossed that it emerges from this deal with an improved alliance in the United States."

BA's other experiments with alliances include Deutsche BA, in which it has a 49 per cent equity stake (the remainder is held by the banks); Qantas, in which it has a 25 per cent stake, and TAT, an independent French carrier in which it has a 40 per cent stake. It is too early to predict the cost savings of the Qantas deal, but Ms Slater said: "The Qantas deal allows both airlines to switch aircraft to areas where demand is high. When it is peak season in Australia, BA can send some of its aircraft there."

However, the TAT and Deutsche BA ventures have not been as successful as BA had hoped. Kleinwort's Ms Slater believes that if the USAir deal goes ahead it could be the first step in a new generation of super-groups of airline alliances across the globe.

"You can see them forming already," she said. Most successful groupings are KLM-Northwest; BA-USAir; Delta-Swissair-Singapore Airlines-Virgin; and Lufthansa-United-SAS-South African Airways.

Thai Airways. These groupings will expand and develop into the next century as carriers look for partners who will help them cover the globe.

Alliances, however, are not carved in stone. Rumours have circulated that all is not well between Virgin and Delta, and Delta would certainly be the ideal partner for BA, should United acquire USAir, because there is little overlap between routes.

According to a survey carried out by the Boston Consulting Group, fewer than 40 per cent of regional and 30 per cent of international alliances have been successful. It cites deals between Air France-Canadian Airlines and Qantas-Japan Airlines that have fallen through in recent years.

The Civil Aviation Authority in Britain says it is monitoring the growth in alliances to ensure they do not stifle competition, but adds that it is very unlikely to take any action.

One of the most successful code-sharers on this side of the Atlantic is British Midland, which has 11 short- and long-haul deals but says it wants another four by the middle of next year. BM is in the third year of a deal with United under which passengers may, for example, fly from Los Angeles to Glasgow. It is a deal without equity stakes which Austin Reid, managing director of BM, describes as a "win-win" situation. "We get extra business and United gets extra destinations."

The attraction of BM for partners lies in its right to 13 per cent of all slots at Heathrow, which amounts to 1,000 flights a week. It has code-sharing agreements, but no equity holdings in American, Air Canada, Virgin, Malaysian, Cathay Pacific, SAS, Austrian, Alitalia, Iberia and TAP. It is looking for partners in the Far East, Japan and South Africa, and watching carefully the developments with USAir.

Mr Reid said: "It is hard to say what the effect of a merger would be. Given United's tie-up with Lufthansa, it is unlikely to do a deal with BA, but a tie-up between BA and American could have a detrimental effect on our current arrangements."

However, Kevin O'Toole, business editor of *Flight* magazine, believes further consolidation within the airline industry is inevitable.

"USAir's announcement that it is in talks with American and United puts everything else up for grabs," he said. "Whoever closes the deal with one-and-a-half times bigger than any other carrier, which means there will be a scramble among the others to catch up."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Chancellor on the Internet

IT HAD to happen. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) is launching a simple tax model via the Internet, giving computer buffs the chance to play Chancellor.

Power freaks will be able to alter the nation's income tax system, vary National Insurance contributions, change the price of beer or cigarettes, and so on, and then plot the effects on a range of typical families. They will also be able to assess the impact on government tax revenues. The model will be amended on Budget night to allow users to enter their circumstances, and see how changes affect them. The service is obtainable from noon on Monday on the IFS's own server (<http://www.ifs.org.uk/>).

On the buses

JOHN PRESCOTT, deputy leader of the Labour Party, seemed to be suffering something of an identity crisis at the Prebion Yamane annual housing finance seminar in the City yesterday. Perhaps disconcerted by the changes in Shadow Cabinet, and harking back to his days as Shadow transport spokesman, he answered a question about how the public and private sectors should work together on providing housing finance with a diatribe about how privatisation had destroyed the bus system. Baffled — you will be.

IT IS unwise to raise your hand at auction, as City PR supremo Rupert Ashe discovered to his horror this week. Ashe unwittingly joined the bidding for the services of an interior designer, at a bash at the Savoy on Wednesday, and ended up paying £1,500.



"I distinctly heard a profit warning"

Accelerate

NOT TO be outdone in the quest for the ultimate cult drink, Guinness, through its spirits arm United Distillers, is making its first foray into the designer alcohol market with the launch today of its contender for the role, a drink called XLR8. Aimed at the twentysomething crowd, the drink — say it later by letter and you'll get the idea — is making its world debut in Australia. If all goes well, the drink will then be introduced to the UK and elsewhere.

Brum reunion

BREWSTER DOLPHIN, the private client fund manager and stockbroker, is opening an office in Birmingham next month and taking on board Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark, the former Tory MP for Selly Oak and "Voice of Brum", as a consultant. For Sir David Rowe-Ham, the Brum chairman, it will be something of a reunion, as he and Sir Anthony were senior partners at Smith Keen Cutler in the 1970s before parting ways for the Mansion House and Palace of Westminster respectively.

THE City is to have a new eatery. Peter Gladwin, who looks after catering at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at Guildhall, among other things, is opening Gladwin's in Minster Court, on November 6. As Gladwin owns Nubourne Vineyards in West Sussex it will doubtless have a fine selection of English wine.

The discreet revolution in industrial relations

Denis MacShane reports on a shift towards works councils

The news that NatWest is joining the burgeoning list of British companies setting up works councils marked a significant development in the long-running saga of British workplace representation.

If the battle cry of the 1970s was "All Power to the Unionists", the discussion in the 1990s has moved on to working out how best to provide a voice for employees without interfering in the relentless struggle of managers seeking to succeed in a competitive global economy.

After a decade and a half of social exclusion, trade union leaders are enjoying the effects of the impact of European legislation which obliges big companies with operations in two or more European countries to set up works councils. The paradox of Mr Major's opt-out from the Maastricht treaty social clauses, is that if Britain had agreed to participate, ministers and civil servants might have been able to delay or influence the various directives that the other European states can now agree without reference to UK needs.

To score points in the internal Conservative Party war over Europe, Mr Major sacrificed the long-term interests of those British managers who believe that institutional representation rights for their employees should be shunned like the plague. But instead, as they are obliged to set up works councils, managers are finding that the very devil from whose embraces Mr Major sought to protect them, is actually a warm, cuddly beast that both strengthens management and provides employees with a sense of a

state in their company. United Biscuits, once the most high-profile of Conservative Party supporters, reports satisfaction with the workings of its Euro works council, while NatWest's director of human resources argues that the global works council NatWest is setting up will benefit the business.

Understandably, trade union leaders are crowing about bosses having to abide by European rules and are delighted that after 16 years in which legally enforced workplace representation has been a no-go area for British policy, companies are now agreeing to co-chair works councils with elected representatives from the workforce. But underneath the political point-scoring, a more fundamental shift is taking place with important long-term implications for the organisation of British industrial relations.

Broadly speaking, there are two dominant theories of workplace representation. The first is the American adversarial one in which all powers rest with the union. The second is the continental European social-partnership model which is based on a dual-track representation. Works councils in the workplace represent the individual rights of workers with trade unions outside the workplace

but controlling national or industrially based wage-setting and seeking to influence social policy generally.

Since the 1930s, American unions have had a legal right to recognition. If a majority of employees want to be represented by a union, then the company has to concede a mandatory closed shop in a majority of states. Thus, the big US car firms like Ford and GM have closed-shop agreements with the United Auto Workers Union and no other union is allowed to represent or organise car workers. Labour's proposals to mandate union recognition where a majority of employees want it, are taken from US practice. The only difficulty is that American unions have found that in many companies, the employees do not want union representation. To the American unions, recognition agreements have declined in the past three decades as securing the 50 per cent support in the workplace proves impossible. Moreover, the 50 per cent rule works both ways. Employers can also organise ballots of members to secure union derecognition and with all the panoply of propaganda and other anti-union threats at their disposal they have reduced trade union density and collective bargaining cov-

Employers can also organise ballots to secure union derecognition

erage in the US to the lowest of any OECD country. The European model is quite different. Ford in Germany, for example, has no recognition agreement with IG Metall, the 3 million-strong German manufacturing workers union. Instead, Ford deals directly with its works council on workplace problems and only indirectly with IG Metall on pay matters via the employers' federation.

The works council's officials all happen to be IG Metall members and the unions devote resources to training them so that they are effective employee representatives. Often there is a tension between the works councils and the union, notably on the question of working hours where works councils have been more flexible than formal on union policy guidelines. But the tension is creative and a three-way dialogue between works council, management and union allows European workplace relations to avoid the all-or-nothing approach in the American model.

Open the whole, British workplace representation follows the American model though the century-old tradition of voluntary, rather than legally-enforced agreements, has led to more recognition deals even under the anti-union Conservatives than in the United States. Yet the gap between British and European practice remains stark. In every continental European country, workers have statutory rights to be represented and consulted via various forms of works councils. In Britain, if a company is non-union, the employee simply has no rights of consultation or representation at all.

But the irony of current practice and thinking of workplace representation is that while more and more British employers are buying into the European model of works councils, the direction of Labour Party and TUC thinking is towards the American model of legal ballots which will impose union recognition where a majority of workers require it.

The moral or democratic case for the latter is unanswerable but the evidence appears to suggest that workers may be more effectively represented by works councils co-operating closely with unions acting as pay negotiating bodies.

□ Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, is writing a book on the global labour market.



Ford of Germany will only deal indirectly with IG Metall via the employers federation

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Salomon blow as Buffett takes cash instead of shares

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

A SHADOW fell over Salomon Brothers yesterday when Warren Buffett, its largest shareholder, switched \$140 million of his holding of preferred stock into cash instead of into the ordinary shares of the New York investment bank.

The move was interpreted by many on Wall Street as a vote of no-confidence in Salomon by the Omaha investor, which could lead to the bank being put up for sale.

His withdrawal also raised questions about the future of Robert Denham, the chairman, and Deryck Maughan, the English chief executive, both of whom were installed by Mr Buffett.

Mr Buffett has stood behind Salomon during a period when it faced a string of losses, regulatory problems and staff defections. However, he tried to dispel fears that he was no longer willing to support Salomon.

"The decision not to exercise in no way predicts what I will decide when each of the four remaining options expire," he said. It did not mean he was negative about the company, he said.

One Wall Street analyst said: "Whatever Warren Buffett says, everyone knows that Salomon is not in great shape and that he has been losing patience with it. It wouldn't surprise me if he left Salomon sooner or later to fend for itself."

The news clouded Salomon's announcement that the three months to September 30 had been its most profitable for two years, with net income of \$268 million, compared with a loss of \$242 million at the same time last year. However, the result still leaves the bank with a profit of only \$299 million for the first nine months of the year.

The bank said that the result

reflects strong performances in client-related and proprietary trading businesses.

Mr Denham said: "We made money in what, for Salomon, is the old-fashioned way, by effectively serving client needs in our sales and trading, corporate finance, advisory and underwriting businesses."

Mr Buffett acquired his preferred stock with a conversion option in 1987, when he injected \$700 million to bail out the struggling bank. Since then, Salomon's share price has crept up to \$40.10, slightly above the \$38 conversion price.

Salomon's most recent embarrassment was a substantial fine imposed last week by securities regulators in London for accounting irregularities. In New York, attempts by Mr Maughan to reduce bonus levels has damaged morale among the staff.



Michael Connolly has nine radio targets in sight

Independent Radio joins AIM

By Philip Pangalos

INDEPENDENT Radio Group, a company set up to acquire UK local radio stations, has joined the Alternative Investment Market via a £10 million placing that will help it to take advantage of opportunities in the commercial radio sector.

The company, run by an experienced management team formerly with Trans World Communications, the radio group taken over by Emap last year, is initially looking to take over several existing commercial radio stations. It will also use part of the proceeds from its £10 million placing to bid for a number of the new regional radio licences.

Michael Connolly, IRG chief executive, said the company currently has nine "underdeveloped" radio stations in mind. "We hope to have acquired the targets within 12 months," he said.

The Manchester company is likely to incur losses in its first year.

The shares enjoyed a healthy debut on AIM, advancing to 117p on their first day, compared with a placing price of 100p.

Receiverships fall to six-year low

THE number of businesses falling into receivership has fallen to its lowest level since 1989. During the third quarter, there were 416 receiverships, down from 508 in the corresponding three months last year. Tim Hayward, head of corporate recovery at KPMG, said: "This is the lowest figure we have recorded in the 1990s, which must add to the cautious optimism we are seeing. However, there still seems to be a certain lack of confidence in the economy, and increasing political uncertainty cannot be advantageous."

The figures must also reflect the wider acceptance of a rescue culture, where more firms are avoiding receivership by confronting their problems earlier. Manufacturing companies accounted for more than a quarter of all the receiverships, with construction and financial businesses each accounting for 15 per cent of the total.

Coca-Cola sales soar

COCA-COLA said strong sales in the United States, its oldest and strongest market, helped to lift third-quarter profits 13 per cent to \$802 million, or 64 cents a share, compared with \$708 million, or 55 cents a share last time. Revenues were \$4.9 billion, up 10 per cent from \$4.5 billion. Case sales grew 8 per cent in the US in the quarter, with a 7 per cent rise in international sales, despite sluggish markets in Mexico, Japan and Argentina. For the first nine months of the year, Coca-Cola, which is based in Atlanta, reported net income of \$2.3 billion, or \$1.85 per share, up 18 per cent from \$2 billion, or \$1.54 a share.

Targeting Germany

THE Dublin arm of Scottish Amicable, the life office at the centre of bid-and-merger rumours, made a move yesterday to capture up to 1 per cent of the German market over the next five years with the launch of a flexible whole-life and critical-illness plan. Scottish Amicable said that, working from offices in Frankfurt, it hopes to sell 30,000 policies by the end of the decade. The German population of 80 million represents Europe's largest single insurance market. Clive Cowdery, managing director of Scottish Amicable International, said the German trend was "away from conventional products and towards more flexible unit-linked plans."

Coles Myer board row

COLES MYER, Australia's largest retailer, has given way to heavy pressure from institutional shareholders over a radical restructuring plan by having a boardroom clearout. Solomon Lew will now stand down from the position of chairman and three key non-executive directors have resigned including Will Bailey, deputy chairman. Five new non-executives are to be appointed. The upheaval follows a proposal to split Coles Myer into four separate public companies. The board changes were welcomed by Bankers Trust, AMP and State Super, the company's major institutional shareholders.

Gleeson edges down

PROFITS at MJ Gleeson Group, the building company, edged lower to £8.45 million before tax from £8.9 million in the year to June 30, reflecting difficult trading conditions in the construction sector. Turnover rose to £191.8 million from £174 million but margins suffered as a result of the intense competition for new business. Earnings were 52.66p a share, falling from 58.79p previously. However, the total dividend is lifted to 15p a share from 14.16p, with a final 11.45p due on January 10. The company said prospects for the housing, construction and property sectors remained uncertain.

Malaya warning

MALAYA GROUP, the acquisitive motor group, warned shareholders that trading conditions had continued to deteriorate in the volume car sector, resulting in an expected loss of £600,000 in the Japanese car franchises. The company also said that profitability would be affected by higher than anticipated start-up costs at Big Chief, the used car operation. As a result, the group trading performance for the full year would fall significantly below expectations, the company said. Malaya shares fell to 94p from 14p yesterday.

Self Assessment

It's time to tidy up your tax affairs.

Are you getting your house in order, ready for Self Assessment?

If you are self-employed, the changes will certainly affect you. For instance, if you own a business which employs others, are in a partnership (including husband and wife partnerships), a one person business working from home, or self-employed in one job and employed in another.

(It will also apply to everyone else who normally receives a tax return including higher rate tax payers, company directors and some pensioners.)

Self Assessment is not a new tax. Just a more straightforward way of assessing and paying it. The first Self Assessment tax returns will be sent out in April 1997 for the tax year 1996/97.

That may seem a long way off but you'll need to get your tax affairs up to date well before then. If you have any outstanding tax business, don't keep putting it off, sort it out. Or if you're not clear about your tax situation, get in touch with your tax office or accountant to find out exactly where you stand. It will make the change-over to Self Assessment that much easier.

And remember, you must keep adequate records. It's a good idea to have a tax file and keep everything together that might be useful such as receipts, dividend vouchers and other important documents.

Failing to comply with the new rules could cost you interest and penalties. To help you avoid this, there'll be a clear timetable setting out exactly what you need to do and by when.

Self Assessment doesn't mean you'll have to work out your own tax bill. We'll be happy to do it for you. But if you want to do the calculation yourself you'll have a bit longer to get your tax return in.

With any change - even for the better - we understand you may have questions or concerns. We've prepared some free booklets and a video to help you. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number any time. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)

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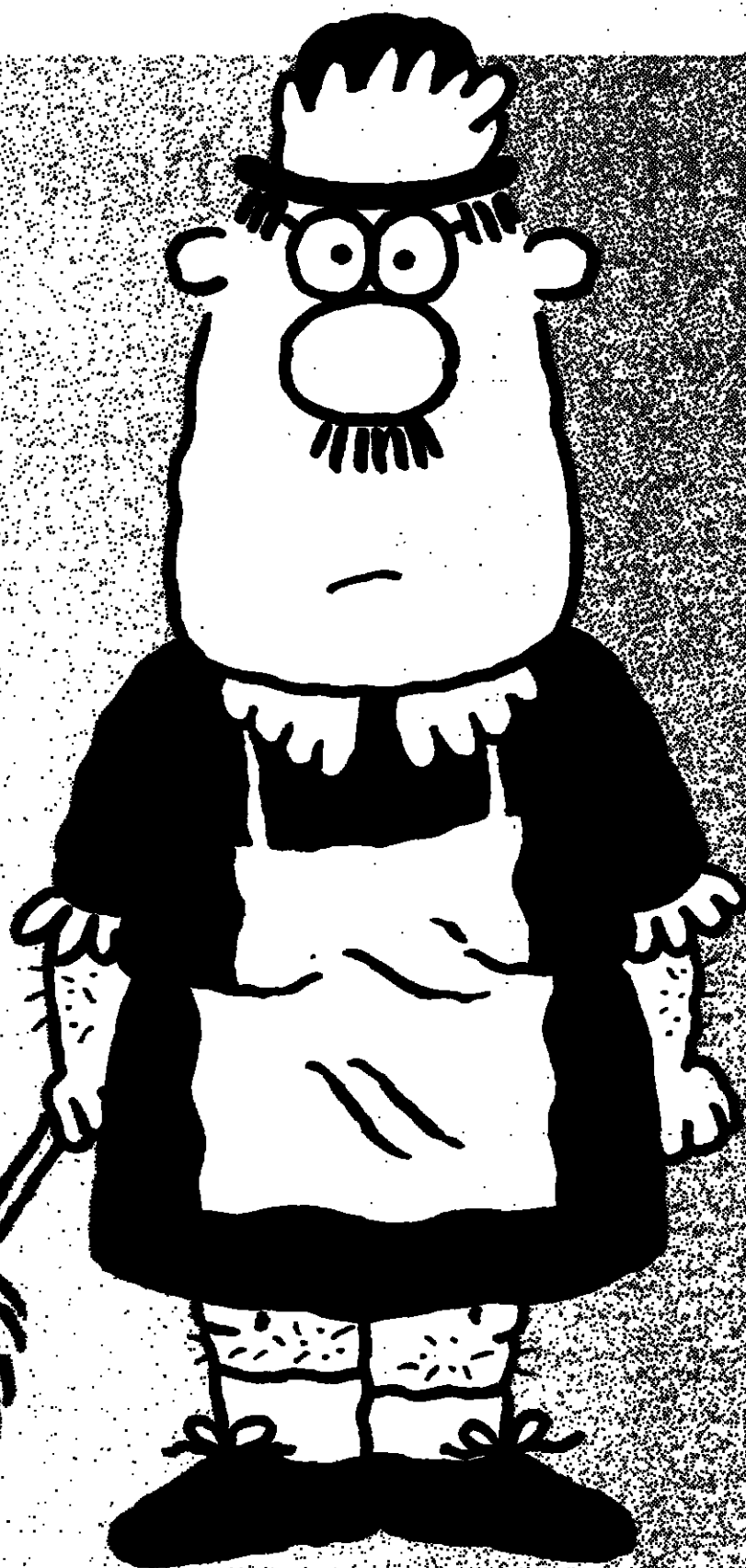
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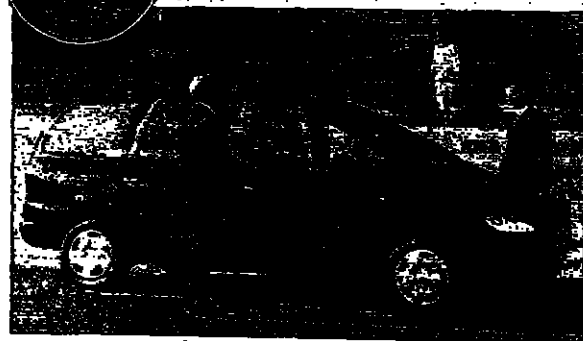
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Kevin Maxwell says his father was "notoriously bad" at managing paperwork.

Son tells of Robert Maxwell's final days



Kevin Maxwell: search for document

KEVIN MAXWELL told a court yesterday of the last conversation he had with his father, Robert, before his mysterious plunge to his death from his luxury boat. Father and son had a wide-ranging conversation over a drink the day before the publisher set off for a short break on *Lady Ghislaine* at the end of October 1991.

Kevin, giving evidence for the fourth day at the Central Criminal Court, said his father was still suffering from a chest infection which he hoped to throw off before flying on to Israel. During their talk, Robert Maxwell told Kevin he had transferred the beneficial ownership of £22 million worth of shares in Teva, the Israeli pharmaceutical concern, from Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), which administered the pension funds, to the Robert Maxwell Group (RMG).

His father had done exactly the same thing earlier that year with £100 million worth of shares in Scitex, another Israeli company, before they were sold for a handsome profit. His father had shown him stock transfer forms

relating to the Teva shares and explained why he was transferring the ownership.

He saw a "substantial benefit" if the shares were offered as belonging to RMG rather than BIM, "particularly because of the positive PR that would accrue to the group from another successful sale of Israeli assets at a profit", the court heard.

The Scitex shares had been sold amid publicity about the

whole cumulative experience of doing business with him, if he said something he meant it and I relied on what he said to me."

That was the last meeting that Kevin Maxwell had with his father before his death, although they spoke by phone once when Robert Maxwell was on his boat.

Earlier, Kevin told the jury that his father was "notoriously bad" at managing the paperwork generated by his complex busi-

ness. Mr Jones pressed him about whether he could throw any light on where it might be. Kevin replied: "If it remained in his office I would expect it to surface among the thousands or millions of pieces of paper held by one administrator or another."

He said he had spent up to eight hours a day searching through Maxwell papers held by Arthur Andersen, the administrators. In a secured deposit warehouse, he said "millions of pages" of documents were at the New York Daily News and Macmillan offices in America, but "regrettably we have not been able to get access".

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell adviser, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension fund by misusing the Teva shares and pledging them as security for a loan. Kevin Maxwell alone denies a similar charge of conspiring with his late father to misuse the Scitex shares to pay private Maxwell company debts. The prosecution alleges in both cases that the shares did not belong to RMG but to the pension fund. The case continues.



Robert Maxwell: share transfer

6 If he said something he meant it, and I relied on what he said to me?

profits they had generated for the Maxwell Group just a few days earlier. Robert Maxwell told his son he would arrange for the registration of the Teva shares in RMG's name. Kevin said he believed his father, and thought the shares now belonged to RMG.

Asked by his counsel, Alan Jones, QC, why he thought that, Kevin Maxwell said: "The only explanation I can give is simply years of working with him. In my

business deals. He was explaining how he had tried to track down without success a document that his father had shown him in July 1991. It was an amended version of an agreement for RMG to sell the Scitex shares on behalf of BIM. In the amended version, beneficial ownership had been transferred to RMG.

He was asked by Mr Jones if he had seen that amended version since. "Not since that day in my father's office, no," he replied.

Rubicon to buy Calder for £94m

By ROBERT BOYD

RUBICON, the Stratford precision engineering company, yesterday announced a proposal to acquire Calder, the engineering and industrial materials group, for £94 million. Calder reported pre-tax profits of £8.1 million on sales of £176.9 million in 1994.

Earlier this year, Rubicon expressed a desire to broaden its activities with a large acquisition. Having been heavily reliant on the information technology sector in the past, Rubicon, formerly Courtney, Pope Holdings, will now add Calder's four divisions — metal castings, magnets, lead products and aluminium alloys — to its precision metal components and electronic assemblies business.

Tim Wightman, managing director of Rubicon, said: "This deal creates a specialist engineering group with leading market positions and the financial strength to deliver world class products and services to an international customer base."

Rubicon's announcement was received positively by analysts who saw it as an important step in the company's attempts to compete with Fullarton, the other market leader, part of the Laird Group. The acquisition means that Rubicon will no longer rely too heavily on just one or two customers. By spreading the risk, the company hopes to be in a better position to expand in the future.

Rubicon aims to raise £15 million gross of additional funds through the issue of new shares to increase the working capital and cover the costs associated with the acquisition. Mr Wightman, who will become chief executive of the enlarged group, went on to outline plans for expansion into the United States. The company is looking for a location in North Carolina for the manufacture of three new products by the second half of 1996.

Temps, page 28

Trading forecast hurts Ferguson

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Ferguson International Holdings fell 40p to 268p yesterday after the holding company gave warning that the outlook for the second half of this year was uncertain because of weak retail demand.

The company, which has interests in labels, garment hangers and communications components, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £5.6 million in the half-year to August 31, from £6 million previously. Profits were struck after an exceptional charge of £1.5 million to cover the cost of the hanger division's withdrawal from production in Germany.

The interim dividend is maintained at 4.5p a share, payable December 6 from

earnings that fell to 11.7p a share from 11.9p.

Group turnover advanced to £104.4 million from £80.5 million. The 30 per cent increase reflects a full contribution from Elek, the packaging company acquired for £37.7 million in August 1994. Operating profit rose 32 per cent to £8.5 million from £6.5 million. Interest charges rose to £1.4 million (£400,000).

Denis Cassidy, chairman, said: "Sales in September have been disappointing, reflecting weak retail demand, particularly in clothing, in the summer months." Performance was expected to improve in the final quarter but the outlook remained uncertain.

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Caspian to boost Ramco

By CARL MORTISHED

RAMCO Energy, the Aberdeen oil services company, is expecting a cash flow boost in 1997 from its interest in Caspian Sea oilfields.

The Azerbaijan International Operating Company intends to begin producing oil in late 1996, using two existing pipeline routes for early export.

Ramco has a 2 per cent interest in the international consortium developing the Azeri, Chirag and Gunashli

fields in Azerbaijan. These are expected to generate 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) at peak production, but exports will depend on construction of a new pipeline to a seaport.

However, initial production of 70,000 to 100,000 bpd will be exported in 1997, using existing pipelines to Black Sea ports in Russia and Georgia. Steven Bertram, Ramco's financial director, said the decision to use two pipelines reflected concern

over costs. "If the pipeline levy is too high we can switch to the other route," he said.

Ramco made pre-tax profits of £585,000 (£268,000) in the half year to June 30, thanks to an increase in oil service activity and a \$1.25 million payment from Pennzoil, the US oil company brought into the Caspian Sea project by Ramco. Ramco is currently in dispute with Pennzoil.

There is no interim dividend.

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Notice valid without particulars

Giles v Law Society

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ward and Mr Justice Sedley
[Judgment October 11]

A solicitor suspected of dishonesty and served by the Law Society with an intervention notice relating to the conduct of his practice had no right to be given contemporaneously particulars of the alleged dishonesty.

Neither the provisions of Schedule 1 to the Solicitors Act 1974 nor principles of natural justice required that to be done and a notice stating merely that the Law Society had "reason to suspect dishonesty on your part" was a valid notice.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Mr Robert J. B. Giles from Mr Justice Carnwath's refusal on April 12, 1994 to order the withdrawal of the Law Society's intervention notice resolving to vest in itself clients' funds and to refer Mr Giles' conduct to its disciplinary tribunal. The Court further upheld the judge's refusal to order the withdrawal of a second notice served on Mr Giles that was founded on the failure to comply with the Solicitors Accounts Rules 1991.

Mr Giles was a sole practitioner at Hillearys, London. In 1992 a report prepared for the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau identified a shortfall in his client account.

Following further investigations in October 1994 the Law Society's adjudication and appeals committee resolved to exercise powers under paragraph 6 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Solicitors Act 1974

by ordering the vesting in the society of moneys held by Mr Giles, the transfer to it of certain documents and to refer Mr Giles' conduct to the disciplinary tribunal.

By letter of November 10, the first notice of intervention, the committee wrote to Mr Giles that it had "reason to suspect dishonesty on your part" and making known its decision. Mr Giles applied to the High Court by way of originating summons under paragraph 6(4) of the Schedule for an order directing the society to withdraw the notice.

On November 12, Mr Giles was further notified, the second notice of intervention, of the society's findings of failure to comply with certain of the 1991 Rules. He also applied for its withdrawal.

Section 35 of the 1974 Act provided that the powers given to the Law Society and specified in Part II of Schedule 1 should be exercisable in the circumstances specified in Part I of the Schedule where paragraph 1(i) provided the powers were exercisable where the Law Society "(a) ... have reason to suspect dishonesty on the part of— (i) a solicitor ... in connection with that solicitor's practice ..."

Mr Ian McCulloch and Miss Rebecca Bensted for Mr Giles; Mr Timothy J. Dutton for the Law Society.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the primary submission made for Mr Giles was that a solicitor to whom a notice of intervention based on the grounds set out in paragraph 1(i)(a) of Schedule 1 to

the 1974 Act was given had a right to be given either in the notice or contemporaneously with it particulars of the suspected dishonesty and the reasons for suspecting it, in default of which the notice was invalid and had to be ordered to be withdrawn.

The conclusive answer to that submission was to be found in *Yegorajuh v Law Society* (unreported, May 21, 1982), another case of intervention for suspected dishonesty where the solicitor claimed that the rules of natural justice required that not only was he to be given notice of the case against him, but also a fair opportunity to meet it before the notice was given.

In rejecting that submission Mr Justice Walton had relied on the speech of Lord Hailsham, Vice-Chancellor, in *Pearlberg v Vary* (1972) 1 WLR 534, 540, where the House of Lords had held that in giving leave for a back duty tax assessment to be made the taxpayer was not to be given an opportunity of being heard at the hearing of the application.

Mr Justice Walton had then considered the provisions of Schedule 1 in the light of Lord Hailsham's observations and summarised his views thus: "This provides a simple and sensible statutory scheme; on one hand enabling the Law Society to act swiftly when the possibility of mischief becomes apparent and, on the other hand, enabling the solicitor, against whom such action is taken, to apply as swiftly to the court to obtain a suspension of such activity on his behalf."

Under those provisions that was the point of judicial determination when, in Lord Hailsham's words he "will be given a reasonable opportunity of presenting his case at the proper time".

Mr McCulloch accepted that if the appeal in regard to the first intervention failed then that in regard to the second intervention would become academic. He also accepted that he could not ask the court to interfere with the judge's findings or with the exercise of his discretion.

Lord Justice Ward and Mr Justice Sedley gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Preston-Rouse & Co; Wright Son & Pepper.

Connelly v RTZ Corporation plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Swinton-Thomas
[Judgment August 18]

The availability or otherwise of legal aid assistance within alternative jurisdictions where a case might be tried was not a relevant consideration to be taken into account when applying the principles of forum non conveniens and deciding which would be the most appropriate jurisdiction for the trial.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Edward Connelly, against an order of Sir John Wood, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, that had stayed proceedings brought in England against the defendants, RTZ Corporation plc and RTZ Services Ltd, upon the ground that Namibia was the forum in which the case should be tried.

Section 31 of the Legal Aid Act 1989 provides: "(1) ... (b) the rights conferred by this Act on a person receiving advice, assistance or representation under it shall not affect the rights or liabilities of other parties to the proceedings or the principles on which the discretion of any court or tribunal is normally exercised."

Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Mr James Cameron for the plaintiff; Mr Brian Doctor for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendants claiming damages for negligence on the ground that he contracted cancer while working in Namibia for a subsidiary of the first defendants as a result of their negligence in failing to provide a safe system of work affording protection from the effects of ore dust while he was working in a uranium mine.

The plaintiff accepted that Namibia was prima facie the jurisdiction with which the claim had the most real and substantial connection.

His appeal was based on the ground that he was wholly without means and the judge had found that it was virtually certain that he would not receive legal aid in Namibia to fund professional representation and the costs of procuring witnesses.

It was common ground that his claim was one which, because of its complexity and dependence on the evidence of experts both on the technical and medical issues, it would be impossible for him to sustain without legal aid in any jurisdiction.

In England, on the other hand, legal aid would be available to provide all necessary resources to pursue the claim.

The plaintiff had relied from first to last on the proposition that since it was a practical impossibility for him to fund litigation in Namibia it was a legal impossibility for the English court to be satisfied that Namibia represented a forum "in which the case may be tried more suitably to the interests of all parties and the ends of justice": see *Spiliada Maritime Corporation v Cansulex Ltd* [1987] 1 AC 460.

Legal aid irrelevant to forum

Corporation v Cansulex Ltd [1987] 1 AC 460.

It was a proposition which enforced consideration of fundamental considerations. The defendants had suggested that the court might be spared a full confrontation with the issue by treating legal aid as something which could be accepted as relevant but not treated as decisive.

His Lordship did not think that refuge could be found in middle ground of that kind. Legal aid was either wholly in as a relevant factor or wholly out.

The court had to ask itself: if proceedings that had only a tenuous connection with England were started here by a plaintiff who was impecunious but eligible for legal aid and there was a foreign jurisdiction with which the action had the most real and substantial connection but in which the impecunious plaintiff would be ineligible for assistance, was the English court bound, by reason alone of the plaintiff's eligibility for legal aid in the one jurisdiction and ineligibility in the other, to refuse a stay?

Faced with a case like the present, where the plaintiff had contracted a serious illness with permanent disabling consequences, it was tempting on purely humanitarian grounds to answer the question "Yes". It would be better to have such claims heard in an inappropriate forum than to have them not being heard at all.

But when the question was answered according to law, putting aside the special considerations of sympathy to which the particular plaintiff was entitled, the response had to be "No".

The judge had, therefore, been right to grant a stay of the English proceedings and to treat the non-availability of legal aid for the plaintiff in the courts of Namibia as irrelevant to his decision.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON-THOMAS and LORD JUSTICE NEILL delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Davies Arnold Cooper.

Wide discretion for judge in case management

Thermawear Ltd v Linton and Another

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Thorpe
[Judgment October 17]

The Court of Appeal would be most reluctant to interfere with procedural decisions made by a trial judge in the management of the case before him, and would accord him a generous margin of appreciation in the exercise of his discretion in respect of such decisions.

The Court of Appeal so stated (i) granting the plaintiff, Thermawear Ltd, leave to appeal from Mr Justice Latham who on October 11 had concluded that specified issues raised in the action in negligence brought by the plaintiff against, inter alia, the second defendant, Citroen Wells, a firm, should be tried ahead of other issues between the parties and (ii) dismissing the plaintiff's appeal.

The judge had concluded that if the specified issues were tried first and decided against the plaintiff, its action had to fail and the costs of exploring any other issue could thus be avoided.

Mr Robin Rotts, QC and Mr Michael Todd for the plaintiff; Mr Leslie Kosmin, QC and Mr Derrick Dale for the second defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that on one view the plaintiff's application for leave to appeal raised a simple question of procedural practice. On another view it raised issues of wider significance touching on the procedural powers to be exercised by trial judges, and on the proper approach of the Court of Appeal when such powers were exercised.

For that reason leave was granted. His Lordship referred to and rejected the plaintiff's criticisms of the judge's decision. In particular, that the judge's formulation of the issues was unsatisfactory, that there had already been delays, that it posed a risk of duplication of evidence and of increased costs if one issue were tried ahead of other issues and then the other issues had to be tried and that witnesses would be inconvenienced.

His Lordship set out the reasoning given by the judge in which he had referred to *Practice Direction (Civil Litigation: Case Management)* (The Times January 25, 1995) [1995] 1 WLR 508 and to observations of Lord Roskill and Lord Templeman in *Ashmore v Corporation of Lloyd's* [1992] 1 WLR 448, 453-454.

In his Lordship's view those observations, and that *Practice Direction* were to be read against a growing recognition that the luxurious approach to the expenditure of court time was a luxury of the past, indulged in at the expense of litigants as a whole, which could no longer be afforded.

The judge's decision might not save time and expense if the issues were determined in the plaintiff's favour, nor, if the decision was in the second defendant's favour and an appeal were successful, but it was the type of decision which the judge had to make and the growing procedural decision-making ambit of the trial judge. The Court of Appeal would be most reluctant to interfere unless satisfied that the trial judge was wrong.

His Lordship was not only not satisfied the judge was wrong, but satisfied that he was right. It was an appropriate order and the judge had not overlooked any relevant factor. There was no ground on which the Court of Appeal could properly interfere and the appeal would therefore be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

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Re-listing appeals after refusal

Regina v Blake

In the future, where an application for leave to appeal was refused on a non-counsel basis any application to re-list on a counsel basis would be referred to a judge of the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, and the court would be reluctant to re-list unless satisfied that before the hearing as a non-counsel application counsel had been prepared to appear and his non-appearance was due to a failure of communication beyond the applicant's control.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Latham) so stated on October 4 when allowing an application by Dean Blake to re-list his renewed application for leave to appeal against a total sentence of five years imprisonment imposed on August 3, 1994, by Judge Simmons at Snaresbrook Crown Court for offences of offering to supply and supplying crack cocaine. Having heard argument on the application, their Lordships refused leave to appeal.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in *R v Daniel* [1977] QB 364, 370 Lord Justice Lawton had said: "This court will not be willing to re-list unless, before the date of the abortive hearing, the registrar of the court had been informed in writing that counsel would be instructed."

However, if, as in the present case, the court was satisfied that

and substantial connection. It would be disruptive of that purpose if local considerations of legal aid eligibility were allowed to interfere with it.

The main concern of the doctrine was with the forum in each country, that was to say the jurisdiction and forensic facilities available to ensure a fair trial, not the extent to which the economic arm of the state had made funds available to assist its subjects to have access to those facilities.

The relevant consideration was forum conveniens not focus conveniens.

2 Issues of forum non conveniens required by their nature to be resolved when litigation was still at an early stage and in many cases as a matter of urgency. It would seldom be possible or desirable to undertake more than an impressionistic survey of the competing features of the two regimes.

It would not be helpful to such a survey for the court to become involved in having to make comparisons between the many and varied forms of public assistance for litigation available in different countries, making value judgements between them.

3 The exclusion extended only to considerations of legal aid that was to say public assistance of one form or another. Private resources remained relevant for consideration. So that if exchange controls, for example, resulted in a plaintiff's resources being blocked in one country but available in the other that would be an entirely proper consideration for the court to take into account.

4 The exclusion of considerations of legal aid was consistent with section 31(b) of the Legal Aid Act 1989.

The judge had, therefore, been right to grant a stay of the English proceedings and to treat the non-availability of legal aid for the plaintiff in the courts of Namibia as irrelevant to his decision.

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Thermawear Ltd v Linton and Another

Damages for pregnancy dismissal

Webb v EMO Air Cargo (UK) Ltd (No 2)

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Griffiths, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn of Hadley

[Spoken October 19]
Sections 1(1)(a) and 5(1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 were to be interpreted, in accordance with a ruling of the European Court of Justice, as imposing a duty on an employer to provide a woman with a temporary alternative position, if it was a woman who was dismissed on grounds of pregnancy, and the fact that the reason why she would be temporarily unavailable for work at a time when to her knowledge her services would be particularly required was pregnancy, was a circumstance relevant to her case, being a circumstance that could not be present in the case of the hypothetical man.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Mrs Caroline Louise Webb from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Goff, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Beldam) (The Times December 30, 1994; 1994 ICR 449) who had affirmed the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (The Times February 21, 1995; 1995 ICR 442) last appeal from an industrial tribunal, which had held that she had not been discriminated against on the ground of her sex when she had been dismissed by the respondent employers, EMO Air Cargo (UK) Ltd.

Article 2 of Council Directive 76/207/EEC, the equal treatment directive (OJ 1976 L259, p40) provides: "(1) ... the principle of equal treatment shall mean that there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex either directly or indirectly by reference to particular to marital or family status."

Article 5 provides: "(1) Application of the principle of equal treatment shall not be subject to any special conditions, including the conditions governing dismissal, means that men and women shall be guaranteed the same conditions without discrimination on grounds of sex."

Section 1 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 provides: "(1) A person discriminated against a woman in any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of this Act if - (a) on the ground of her sex he treats her less favourably than he treats or would treat a man."

Section 5 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) A comparison of the cases of persons of different sex or marital status under section 1(1) ... must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same, or not materially different, in the other."

Mrs Laura Cox, QC and Miss Deborah King for Mrs Webb; Mr David Pannick, QC, as amicus curiae; the employers were not represented.

LORD KEITH said that Mrs Webb had been engaged by EMO with a view to replacing a pregnant employee, Mrs Stewart, during the latter's maternity leave. She had been dismissed by EMO on the ground of her sex when she had been dismissed by the respondent employers, EMO Air Cargo (UK) Ltd.

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trial tribunal, the Employment Appeal Tribunal, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords (The Times December 3, 1992; 1993 ICR 479).

The European Court of Justice in the question submitted had to decide whether the provisions of the 1975 Act for dismissal had not constituted unlawful discrimination against her on the ground of her sex.

However, it had appeared to the House of Lords that it was necessary to obtain a preliminary ruling from the Court of Justice of the European Communities (The Times July 15, 1994; 1994 QB 718) on the true construction of article 2(1) of the equal treatment directive to see whether Mrs Webb's dismissal in the circumstances of the case had been contrary to article 2(1) and, if so, to consider whether the provisions of the 1975 Act could be construed to accord with the European Court's ruling.

The question referred to the Luxembourg court had been: "Is it discrimination on grounds of sex contrary to Directive 76/207/EEC, in the case of a woman dismissed on the ground of pregnancy, for example where the work was of purely seasonal duration or where staff was required for some specific event such as the Wimbledon fortnight or the Olympic Games?"

It was apparent from the court's ruling that it had been considered to be a relevant circumstance that Mrs Webb had been engaged for an indefinite or unlimited period, and that the possibility of a distinction between such a case and the case where a woman's absence due to pregnancy would have the consequence of her being unavailable for the whole of the period for which she had been engaged, for example where the work was of purely seasonal duration or where staff was required for some specific event such as the Wimbledon fortnight or the Olympic Games.

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would similarly have dismissed a male employee engaged for this purpose who required leave of absence at the relevant time for medical or other reasons?"

The European Court of Justice in the question submitted had to decide whether the provisions of the 1975 Act for dismissal had not constituted unlawful discrimination against her on the ground of her sex.

However, it had appeared to the House of Lords that it was necessary to obtain a preliminary ruling from the Court of Justice of the European Communities (The Times July 15, 1994; 1994 QB 718) on the true construction of article 2(1) of the equal treatment directive to see whether Mrs Webb's dismissal in the circumstances of the case had been contrary to article 2(1) and, if so, to consider whether the provisions of the 1975 Act could be construed to accord with the European Court's ruling.

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been unavailable for work at the time when the worker had been particularly required, and that the reason for that unavailability had not been a relevant circumstance. So it was not necessary that the reason for the woman's unavailability had been pregnancy, a condition that could not have been present in a man.

It seemed to the Lordship that the only way of fitting the terms of the test of unlawful discrimination in sections 1(1)(a) and 5(1) of the 1975 Act to the European Court's ruling was to hold that, in a case where a woman was engaged for an indefinite period, the fact that the reason why she would be temporarily unavailable for work at a time when to her knowledge her services would be particularly required was pregnancy, was a circumstance relevant to her case, being a circumstance that could not be present in the case of the hypothetical man.

It did not necessarily follow that pregnancy would be a relevant circumstance in the situation where the woman was engaged for a fixed period in the future during the whole of which her pregnancy would make her unavailable for work, nor in the situation where after engagement for such a period the discovery of her pregnancy led to cancellation of the engagement.

His Lordship did not allow the appeal and remit the case to the industrial tribunal to assess compensation.

Lord Griffiths, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Susan James, Hillingdon; Treasury Solicitor.

Whether words capable of being libellous

Gillick v British Broadcasting Corporation and Another

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment October 19]

The words spoken by a participant in a discussion on a live television programme that "there were at least two reported cases of suicide by girls who were pregnant" after the success of a legal battle in the Court of Appeal in 1984 by a well known campaigner opposed to the availability of contraceptive advice to young girls, were capable of bearing the defamatory meaning that the campaigner was morally responsible for those deaths.

The Court of Appeal held by a majority, Lord Justice Millett dissenting, when dismissing an appeal by the defendants, the British Broadcasting Corporation and Mrs Susan Pearce, from the decision of the High Court judge on the trial of a preliminary issue, decided on March 4 in favour of the plaintiff, Mrs Victoria Gillick, that those words were capable of bearing the defamatory meaning.

On July 27, 1999 the BBC broadcast a live television programme entitled "The Garden Party" in which Mrs Gillick, the presenter Mrs Carol Keating, and a second defendant, Lord Justice Millett, were engaged in a discussion on the provision of advice on contraception to young girls.

Mrs Gillick was well known as a campaigner strongly opposed to the availability of such advice, which she had encouraged young girls to engage in promiscuous sexual activities. Mrs Pearce, a journalist, by contrast strongly supported the availability of such advice, which she believed reduced the incidence of unprotected intercourse and unwanted pregnancies among those who received it.

In 1982 Mrs Gillick had brought legal proceedings to procure the withdrawal of a circular to general practitioners which stated that it was permissible to give contraceptive advice to under-age girls without the consent of their parents. Her action succeeded in the Court of Appeal in 1984 (1984 AC 112) but failed, by a narrow majority, in the House of Lords in 1985 (1985 AC 112).

In the present case, Mrs Gillick had asserted on the programme that the number of under-age pregnancies had reduced after she won the battle in 1984. To that assertion Mrs Pearce re-

sponded with the words complained of. Mrs Gillick then brought the present action for libel.

Mr Andrew Caldecott, QC, for the defendants; Mrs Gillick in person.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that it was important to bear in mind that the judge's decision was on the question of law whether the words complained of were capable of bearing the meaning alleged in paragraph 7 of the amended statement of claim. The actual meaning had yet to be determined.

Nevertheless, it was helpful to refer to recent guidance given by Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, in *Stuart v. Stuart* (The Times December 1, 1994) AC 234, 271 where Lord Neill had pointed out that a layman read in an application much more freely than a lawyer and added "unfortunately, as the law of defamation has to take into account, it is especially prone to do when it is derogatory".

Mr Caldecott did not suggest that the words "at least two reported cases of suicide" would have been understood as being merely coincidental. He accepted that the reasonable viewer could infer that there was a causal link between Mrs Gillick's success in the Court of Appeal and her suicides. His argument was that the programme did not suggest that Mrs Gillick was culpable.

His Lordship was unable to accept that argument. It would be for the jury to decide what the words complained of actually meant in their context.

At the present stage, his Lordship was satisfied that within the reasonable spectrum of meanings of which the words were reasonably capable was the meaning that Mrs Gillick was in some sense to blame for the girls' deaths and therefore morally responsible to a culpable degree.

The fact that the programme included a serious discussion on a serious subject did not, in his Lordship's view, assist the defendants. The fact that the discussion was serious lessened the possibility that any remark was merely flippant or ill-considered.

The suicide of two or more young girls would have been a most distressing event and reasonable viewers might well have taken a most unfavourable view of anyone who was even remotely responsible for the girls' actions.

His Lordship was satisfied that a jury might properly come to the conclusion that Mrs Pearce's words would have been likely to affect Mrs Gillick adversely in the estimation of reasonable persons.

Lord Justice Evans agreed with Lord Justice Neill; Lord Justice Millett delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Ms Judith Long, Shepherd's Bush.

Election court should give reasons

Regina v Corporation of the City of London and Another

Ex parte Matson

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Swinton-Thomson

[Judgment August 18]

Although the law did not recognise a general duty to give reasons for administrative decisions, fairness and natural justice required that the City of Aldermen of the City of London should give reasons when deciding whether or not to ratify the election of an alderman.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Mr Malcolm Matson against a decision by the City of Aldermen of the City of London to ratify the election of an alderman.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC and Mr Antony White for Mr Matson; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC.

Mr Richard Price and Mr Murray Hunt for London.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the election of an alderman took place in two stages: first, by the election of the voters at the ward meeting, and second, by the confirmation by the Court of Aldermen. On the first stage Mr Matson had been elected, as one of two candidates, by 54 votes to 13 on a turnout of 57 per cent of the electorate.

He was summoned to appear before the aldermanic court on December 6, 1994. No petition or motion to reject had been made to the court and he had been given no notice of any matter upon which he might be asked questions. After being interviewed he was rejected by 17 votes to one, with one abstention, without reasons being stated.

His Lordship was persuaded, on careful reflection, that fairness and natural justice required that that decision should not be allowed to go unexplained. Mr Matson was

standing for public office. The Court of Aldermen was a court of record and its decision was a matter of public record.

During the interview questions were put to Mr Matson which suggested that he had acted in an inappropriate manner. He had no means of knowing whether the court accepted his explanation.

In the absence of reasons, either he nor the electors could know whether he stood again, or whether if re-elected he should supply additional information to the court.

The giving of short reasons would not fetter or impede the exercise by the court of its customary powers. On the contrary, it would enable the court to ensure that its decisions in every case were sound and manifestly just and in the interests of the City.

Lord Justice Swinton-Thomson delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Waite agreed.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Mr A. J. Colvin.

Migration status relevant in housing refusal

Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte Castell

Regina v Same, Ex parte Tristram-Garcia

Before Mr Roger Henderson, QC [Judgment October 5]

A local housing authority could determine that a person was in the UK unlawfully, even where he had not entered illegally, and therefore refuse to house him under Part III of the Housing Act 1985.

A housing authority owed no duty to offer priority housing under section 65 of the 1985 Act to a person who was no longer lawfully present in Britain even though he had entered lawfully and the authorities did not intend to remove him.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in dismissing the applications of Gaetano Castell and Jose Tristram-Garcia for leave to continue to quash the decisions of Westminster City Council of April 10 and 24, 1995 respectively that they should be refused priority housing under section 65.

The applicants were European Union citizens who had entered the UK lawfully. Gaetano Castell was an Italian who came to Britain in March 1994 to exercise his right under community law to work as a businessman. By February 1995 his attempts to obtain a business in the UK or find work had failed. He was suffering from the HIV virus and he became unable to support himself.

Jose Tristram-Garcia was a Spaniard who first came to Britain in February 1993 to exercise his right under community law to obtain work here. He worked and studied in Britain for a time but became reliant on income support and housing benefit. He also suffered from the HIV virus.

Each applicant was informed by the immigration and nationality department that, as they were no longer in business or employed they were not lawfully resident in Britain.

Ex parte Tristram-Garcia was asked to leave but he was told that no steps would be taken to enforce his departure. Castell was housed by the council in fulfilment of



THEATRE 1
Osborne's A Patriot for Me gets an overlong but sympathetic new staging from the RSC



THEATRE 2
The plight of Europe's refugees is dramatised for young people in *Making the Future* at the Young Vic

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA
A spirited if patchily sung new production of Massenet's Werther goes on the road



TOMORROW
Rodney Milnes on an intriguing staging of Purcell's Fairy Queen at the Coliseum

THEATRE: Osborne's study of homosexuality, treachery and decadence; Europe's shameful past and ugly present

My closet right or wrong?

If John Osborne really had a homosexual past — and I have no firm opinion on this claim — you can see from *A Patriot for Me* why he hid and, presumably, tried to forget it. The Austro-Hungarian Empire as he portrayed it shared many things with late-imperial Britain as he experienced it, among them hypocrisy and punitive attitudes towards love in its various guises. A man who tried to live a double life in either place, whether he was the play's protagonist or John Osborne himself, could end up emotionally and even literally destroyed.

Peter Gill's production, with James Wilby as the doomed Alfred Redl, makes that point almost too clearly. It does not pontificate and, once it gets going, does not drag. But is it necessary for a play so lacking in Osborne's trademark rhetoric to last a full four hours? If the RSC will kindly send me its copy of the text, I will undertake to scissor out 30 minutes, starting with the prolix opening scene. This may be the first major revival of an Osborne play since his death last year, but I do not think the great castigator of mindless reverence would have objected to a deft cut or two.

A vast black door and a huge ornate pediment, flanked by grim black columns, combine with uniforms galore to evoke the Habsburg Empire in ponderous detail. Chubby, racism is everywhere. A label claims that privilege counts for nothing in a modern army and then, without any sense of inconsistency, concedes that only the privileged can rely on rapid promotion. Out of such contradictions and stupidities come Burgess, Maclean and Redl: men with different reasons for treachery but all with skin-thin loyalties and bitterness in their hearts.

Actually, Osborne's Redl, who

Some may therefore find Wilby's performance tentative and indecisive, especially at first. I felt he could shoulder more darkly at times. But the point about Redl is that he has learnt to give nothing away. Only occasionally does his impressively cool facade crack, and then not a lot. He loses his temper with a café-rat who senses the sexual secret he himself has not yet acknowledged: he whines away from a demanding mistress and rails at a male lover thinking of getting married; he momentarily sags when blackmail begins.

He emerges warily from the closet and, once out, visibly toughens and hardens. The impression Wilby leaves is of a man who remains outside on one level in order to survive on another, but you cannot be sure even of that. That seems to me justified under the circumstances and suggests a sensitivity seldom associated with Osborne. He may have ended his life sneering at "poofs" and writing provocatively filthy limericks about them. But *Patriot* comes across as a surprisingly sympathetic portrait of the sexual outsider. That is so not only in its careful account of Redl's emotional journey, but in Gill's staging of the famous drag ball that

led to the play's banning 30 years ago. Could the prancing Antoinettes, Queen Elizabeths, milkmaids and tarts make a more exotic impression? Yes, and a more sinister one too. But with Denis Quilley in full



Officer in a mess: Reginald Marsh as Ludwig von Mohl and James Wilby as the tortured homosexual, Alfred Redl, in John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*. Drawing by Bill Hewison

being sensational, is oddly moving. Whatever Osborne's own traits, he understood what it meant to be rejected and defiant.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TO STAGE a trilogy of contemporary European plays for young people is a grand scheme, one realised by the Oxford Stage Company with its bold project *Making the Future* at the Old Vic. But the event gets off to a wobbly start with *Mirad*, a boy from Bosnia, Dutch dramatist Ad de Bont's simply-told story of the atrocities and sorrows suffered by Djuka and Fazla. This Muslim refugee couple, Croat and Serb, arriving with only two suitcases, face us on a bare stage to report their painful experiences and those of Mirad, the 13-year-old nephew, whose letters and diary they read out.

In May this year, when *Making the Future* was budding, Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack gave a one-off, magnetic, poignant workshop performance of the script. Unfortunately, the final production proves far less sensitive. Malcolm Scates's Djuka is sturdily urgent but without Irons's frailty and dry bitterness. Rachel Fielding's blank, at best sarcastic, Fazla lacks Cusack's softness and strength. Neither explores the suppressed grief that lurks between the often sentimentally clichéd lines.

Rosa Maggiora's dark-planked floor, fast-receding to rustling wire mesh, is foretelling stark, though one wonders why the war-torn refugees sport such smart togs. Part II, resulting *Mirad* (here, faced Gareth Corke) and his mother (Meriel Schofield) brings worse writing but better acting.

Hitler's Childhood, by Niklas Radstrom, a Swede, and inspired by Alice Miller's study of the Führer's formative years, is a further improvement and continues the themes of violently disturbed childhood and ethnic cleansing. The portrayal of Hitler's brutal, mocking, fantasy-lord-brother and his mad aunt (uncanny) Gareth Corke, with ginger play, certainly explains a lot. The psychoanalytic picture is not subtle but Michael Manus as little Adolf is potently shaky. The piece has some expressionistic style. Adolf, lashed by his father, silently crushes down his alter ego (Tassia Messmeris embodying his feminine, feeling, nonconformist side), who wails like a siren.

On the subject of fascism, Summit Conference, running at the Man In The Moon Theatre in a

From Hitler to Herzegovina

sure-footed fringe production, approaches the Führer from another unexpected angle. Robert David MacDonald's finically interesting play imagines the meeting between Hitler's and Mussolini's mistresses, Eva Braun and Clara Petacci, at which they turn into cross-dressing dominatrices bullying a young Nazi who proves a closet Jew (promising Calum Coates). The ladies blur into an expressionist cabaret satire of the Führer and *Il Duce* themselves.

Back at the Young Vic, the third play, *Grace* by Ignace Cornelissen, a Belgian, comes as light relief. This comic modern *Cinderella* has Matus in charmingly silly mode as the uncouth Prince. Vicky Licorish is common as much and cute, arriving at the ball like a dwarf in a cycling mac, winning our hero's heart in spite of the wicked wiles of the glitzy bossy-boots. Tiffany. The trashing of the ballroom is messily choreographed but Matus's and Licorish's nerdy disco dancing is a delight. We have moved from schismatic hatred to a happy class-and-race-bridging romance.

KATE BASSETT

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Matus and Messmeris in *Hitler's Childhood*

deputised for Sir Edward Downes in a Tchaikovsky concert with the BBC Philharmonic. Appointed assistant conductor of the BBC PO a couple of months later, he has had the opportunity to develop in various directions, but he is still most effective in the romantic repertoire.

His conducting of Strauss's *Metamorphosen* with the strings of the Camerata was ample demonstration of that. If Strauss's inspired but searching scoring, applied technical pressure in one or two vulnerable areas, the elegiac expression and sombre colouring remained unquestionably authentic.

GERALD LARNER

VISIONS OF AFRICA

Last in a series of highlights of the Royal Academy's show



Carved figure, Urhobo, Nigeria, 19th century, wood, h. 142 cm

Figures of this kind are usually associated with water-spirits or settlement founders, and they would have been kept on the fringes of the village. The suckling pose does not necessarily imply a spirit exclusive to child-rearing, because in African sculpture maternity is often seen as completing female identity. This figure would have been covered with white chalk as a mark of spiritual purity and power, and the lower limbs would have been wrapped in a white cloth to prevent erosion. The head bears the remains of raised facial scars and a complex coiffure, igheron, worn by women of high rank.

Change in the Werther

GOETHE'S *Werther* and Beaumarchais' *Barber* were conceived within half a dozen years of each other. Yet they could hardly embody more contrasting sensibilities: irredeemable Romantic melancholy on the one hand, irrepressible buffo wit on the other.

For its autumn season, which will take it nationwide, English Touring Opera has imaginatively brought the two together by coupling Masse-

net's *Werther* with Rossini's *Barber of Seville*.

Werther Richmond

Werther comes in a new production by Robert Chevara, designed by Lucy Hall. Paring props and stage business to the essentials has resulted in a direct, unflashy production that serves the opera well. Washing on a line sets the domestic tone of the first act in the mayor's garden, while the drawing room for the claustrophobic third act (Werther's intimate scene with Charlotte) is transformed into a few strokes into a convincing Biedermeier interior. Paule Constable's heavily shadowed lighting is superb here, as indeed it is throughout the show. Costumes of the period are well designed by Fiona Asherton.

The intermezzo that joins the third and fourth acts is staged by Chevara. Black figures loom ominously in a snowscape. Werther, standing upright, is covered by a white sheet. With this black hat perched on top, he briefly resembles a snowman, but as the music reaches its lowering climax, blood streaks the sheet. All the more powerful in that we hear no pistol shots, the moment tellingly superimposes music and action.

Sarah Connolly's Charlotte dominates the stage. Composed and self-assured to begin with, she also contrives a nicely distracted air in the



Sisters in sorrow: Sarah Connolly and Gail Pearson are perfectly matched as Charlotte and Sophie in *Werther*

crucial third act. Vocally, too, she gives a commanding performance, with plenty of light and shade. Gail Pearson, light and smiling of tone, provides a neat foil as her younger, gayer sister Sophie. Ricardo Simonetti, with his stylish baritone, cuts a sophisticated, almost sympathetic figure as Charlotte's husband, Albert. Amanda Holden's singable translation is projected well by most of the cast.

Sadly the *Werther* originally billed, Geraint Dodd, had to withdraw from the production. Timothy Evans-Jones has a brave stab at the role but he is a barely adequate replacement. His thin, peaky tone and poorly sustained line do scant justice to the score's lyricism, though in terms simply of stage presence his *Werther* is a very passable melancholic.

Once one has adjusted to the less refulgent, chamber-like sonorities produced by the 27-piece orchestra, it is possible to appreciate the clarity it brings to Massenet's often contrapuntal textures. Martin André conducts a spirited performance that will no doubt get even more polished as the tour progresses.

BARRY MILLINGTON

SACHIO FUJIOKA, the new principal conductor of the Manchester Camerata, was so thrilled by Ingrid Haebler's performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto in B flat, K395, that when an attendant came on with the obligatory bouquet he snatched it from him and made the presentation himself. Dangerous precedent though it was in the opening concert of his first season with the orchestra — what will he do when he is not so thrilled? — it was an obviously spontaneous gesture of the kind that will surely endear this pleasingly extrovert young musician to the public.

It was an encouraging gesture, too, in that it clearly indicated how much he appre-

ciated those qualities in her playing which he himself lacks in Mozart. Her rhythmic precision allied to her awareness of the significance of every modulation is a much more direct way of getting in touch with the Mozart personality than his approach to the same thing by way of dramatic dynamic contrast.

The expansion of the sound he so resourcefully achieved towards the end of the *Linz Symphony* was sensational

radio: Gambaccini wins the day

After the storm

Paul Gambaccini is one of the best broadcasters around. And the Radio 4 late-night shipping forecast does not become a hazard to sailors just because it moves by a few minutes every few years. These seemingly obvious facts appear to have escaped sections of the Radio 3 and Radio 4 audiences.

When Radio 3 announced that Gambaccini was to introduce *Morning Collection*, a gale swept out of the shires and battered the great ship Broadcasting House. At the time Gambaccini had not started broadcasting, but who cares about that?

Gambaccini had committed at least three offences: he was American, he had a background in pop-music radio and he had come from Classic FM. Therefore *Morning Collection* would consist of 10 bars of *Bolero* and 50 minutes of inane cackle.

The reality disappoints blind prejudice. *Morning Collection* consists of the sort of music Radio 3 has always played, interspersed with brief and informative anecdotal introductions by Gambaccini, who happens to be classically trained and who has always been one of the calmer and more thoughtful voices in music broadcasting.

PETER BARNARD

Sensation seeker

CONCERT
Camerata RNCM, Manchester

and unmistakably conclusive but, in the absence of little more than superficial characterisation, it was conclusive to not very much. Haebler's interpretation, on the other hand, was a source of illumination. Her understatements are more eloquent in Mozart than any amount of rhetoric.

Fujiooka sprang to prominence in Manchester when, as Sir Charles Groves Conducting Fellow at the Royal Northern College of Music, he

deputised for Sir Edward Downes in a Tchaikovsky concert with the BBC Philharmonic. Appointed assistant conductor of the BBC PO a couple of months later, he has had the opportunity to develop in various directions, but he is still most effective in the romantic repertoire.

His conducting of Strauss's *Metamorphosen* with the strings of the Camerata was ample demonstration of that. If Strauss's inspired but searching scoring, applied technical pressure in one or two vulnerable areas, the elegiac expression and sombre colouring remained unquestionably authentic.

GERALD LARNER

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Appeal



POP 1
Human League still dawdling along in a happy triangle after all these years



POP 2
Heavy-metal melodrama served up in double doses by the Smashing Pumpkins



POP 3
Chrissie Hynde goes unplugged to rally the old Pretenders hits in *The Isle of View*



POP 4
... while Peel *Slowly and See* celebrates the former glories of the Velvet Underground

Three for the show

The notoriously lazy Human League are about to tour and record a new album. Alan Jackson discovers why

If Phil Oakey's band, the Human League, has been characterised by anything in its 15 years as a threesome, it is its appealing mix of pop star glamour and kitchen sink realism. Famously, on the departure of Jari Marsh and Martyn Ware in 1980, Oakey recruited Susanne Sulley and Joanne Catherall, having seen the two teenagers dancing together at a city discotheque. Other bands of the era made videos on yachts, but the Human League's *Don't You Want Me?*, a No 1 hit both here and in America, opened with a Svangali's bitter observation to the protégée who no longer needs him: "You were working as a waitress in a cocktail bar when I met you."

In real life, Sulley and Catherall have remained loyal to the man whose offer whisked them away from revising for their A levels. Over time they have become an essential part of the group's sound and image. That they sing with deadpan ordinariness has merely added to the charm, as has their dedication to dressing up at all times in a manner befitting those who were rarely far from the *Top of the Pops* studio throughout the early 1980s. When I meet them, for example, although no photographer is on hand to record their splendour, Sulley is sporting a micro-suit of scarlet silk with matching stilettos, Catherall something all-enveloping but bandage-tight in black.

Oakey, pretending to be dazzled, slips on a pair of predictably stylish sunglasses. Well, if you're putting yours on, Sulley points, pulling out of her bag the world's largest

6 We can do really well, but only if we work hard

pair of black wraparound shades. "My outfit looks a lot better when I'm wearing these." The easy banter they and Catherall exchange speaks of a mutual deep affection, one which cannot but have helped to hold the Human League together while other contemporaries have hit the heights, imploded, undertaken solo projects, reformed and then disappeared again. All three cheerfully admit to having been lazy and lackadaisical in running their professional lives. A week on Monday, for example, they begin what is only their third UK tour, and their first for eight years. "What was your manager playing at, allowing you to be as inactive as that?" I ask. Oh, I see, you didn't have a manager for the past nine years. "We sometimes wonder just what it is we have been doing," Oakey admits. "We've been dawdling along, then one by one we've had semi-servants, breakdowns, which have taken up a bit of time. Somehow we just never got the hang of capitalising on our successes. We never put out records when we should have, never toured when it was the right time. In fact, we haven't been very smart at all."

Until recently, what prevented the Human League from following the same downwards trajectory of peers such as ABC, Living in a Box and Spandau Ballet is that they functioned as a necessary bridge between chilly German computer-experimentalism and the tastes of the average British high street shopper, and that all those who were young and had cars when their ground-breaking album



After 15 years together, the Human League — Susanne Sulley, Phil Oakey and Joanne Catherall — are still friends. That's something to boast about, anyway

Dare was released in 1981 retain a great affection for the band. Perhaps that is what encouraged the East West label to lure the band from Virgin a little over a year ago. Whatever the reason, being on a new label has brought a new level of motivation. Oh, and they've finally got themselves a manager — and not just any old one. "We weren't sure about Miles Copeland, him being this right-wing American [who had managed the Police] and us being three Labour-voting bobbies from Yorkshire, but it's worked out really well," Sulley says.

So it should have: Sting once described Copeland as the best manager in the world. Certainly his involvement, combined with that of East West, seems to have kicked the band's collective rear. "It's like we've realised that we can do really well, but only if we work hard," Oakey says. "Previous-

ly we hadn't cracked on to the link between the two things. And the enthusiasm of everyone around us has rubbed off. Because they're all doing so much on our behalf, we don't want to let them down."

A new studio LP, to be recorded early next year, is likely to find the band returning to its hardcore German roots. Oakey, who still goes dubbing and who notes almost with bemusement that the kids he encounters there are astonishingly friendly towards veterans such as himself, has been fired by his discovery of the relentlessly fast-paced music generated by Germany's rave culture.

"So I'll continue to resist every attempt to turn me into a crooner, or for us to concentrate on ballads or cover versions," Oakey says. "The music that's sweeping the clubs of Europe and northern

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS
Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness (Hut HUTDMC 30)
IN the wake of Nirvana's ugly demise and with the passing of grunge, a triumvirate of gothic bands has emerged at the helm of the new American heavy-rock establishment. Soundgarden and Pearl Jam have already proved themselves, commercially and artistically, beyond reasonable doubt. Now it is the turn of the Smashing Pumpkins to show they are capable of.

The Chicago four-piece have risen to the challenge with a work of such vaulting ambition that to call it their magnum opus sounds a bit of an understatement. The first bona fide double-album of new material ever released by a rock band in the CD era, the absurdly-titled *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* boasts 28 songs, and clocks in at more than two hours. From the opening, neo-classical air, played on piano and strings, to the closing chords of *Farwell and Goodnight*, the album dips and swerves through jagged peaks of grandiose, heavy-metal melodrama (*Jellybelly*, *Tales of a Scorch'd Earth*) and lush valleys of calm, semi-acoustic balladry (*Cupid De Locke*, *In the Arms of Sleep*).

Through it all, the emotional tenor is determined by the whining voice and personality of songwriter Billy Corgan, yet another of those pop millionaires misanthropes, who seems to feel the world owes him an apology for making him the star that he is. "Despite all my rage/I am still just a rat in a cage," he snarls in *Butterfly Wings*, a defining lyric and one of the best choruses on the album. For all its colourful contrasts and complexities, there is something cold and unapproachable about the album overall. There are few tunes that can be latched onto with ease, and to swallow it whole requires a leap of faith which

England is directly related to that which we ourselves helped pioneer. That's the way forward for us."

"But always within the context of proper song," interjects Sulley and Catherall. "The Human League will always be about songs."

NEW ALBUMS:
Smashing Pumpkins
America's rock throne; acoustic Hynde-sight

the casual listener is unlikely to make. A monumental accomplishment, but as we all know, size is not everything.

PRETENDERS
The Isle of View (WEA 0630-12059)
AN *Unplugged* album in all but name, *The Isle of View* finds Chrissie Hynde leading her boys through live, acoustic performances of the group's old hits and other bits. Taped in front of an invited audience at a London recording studio over two nights last May, the album provides a welcome opportunity to reappraise favourites such as *Chill Factor*, *Brass in Pocket* and *Hymn to Her* in a more relaxed and intimate setting than before.

It is an intriguing exercise, since the new arrangements remove at a stroke the group's trademark "jangly" guitar sound, thereby throwing the emphasis entirely on their key asset: Hynde's extraordinary voice. Taking full advantage of the increased scope for vocal dynamics, she turns in a bravura performance, deploying her aching vibrato to conjure a mood of wistful nostalgia on *Back on the Chain Gang* and *I Go to Sleep*, and a tone of frosty hauteur on *Private Life* and *I Hurt You*.

Not all the numbers respond to the treatment so well. *The Phone Call* is an unequivocal rock song, and the piston-like steps in its arrangement sound contrived when played on acoustic guitars. And then there is the obligatory string section, the bane of so many *Unplugged* sessions.

Although fine as a discreet addition now and then, the violins, viola and cello of the Duke Quartet get the upper hand during a slowed-down version of *Kid* and up the scales from sentimental to sickly in *2,000 Miles*.

THE SHAMEN
Axis Mutatis/Arbor Bona (One Little Indian TPLP52CD/R)

ALTHOUGH an established presence in the mysterious world of dance and techno, the Shamen have clung tenaciously to their conventional pop roots. Several of the early tracks on *Axis Mutatis*, including the recent hit *Destination Eschaton*, sound more like Erasure or OMD than the work of a band bent on exploring the boundaries of what is sonically feasible. However, later tracks drift off into the realms of spacey experimentalism, and the album is marketed, for a limited period, with a companion disc, *Arbor Bona* *Arbor Mala*, which offers "ambient interpretations" of the group's songs. Here a world of nebulous sounds and bubbling techno semi-rhythms evolve into strange swirling shapes that stretch on, seemingly, forever. Nice stuff, if you can wait for it to unravel.

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND
Peel Slowly and See (Polydor/Chronicles 31452 7897; 5-disc boxed set)

A SINGULARLY impressive piece of rock'n'roll archaeology, *Peel Slowly and See* assembles the core legacy of the Velvet Underground — the four studio albums recorded between 1965 and 1970 — and adds a generous helping of rare and previously unreleased material, including early demo versions of *Venus in Furs*, *Heroin*, *I'm Waiting for the Man* and others.

All the tracks have been scrupulously remastered and the package comes with copious illustrations and an illuminating essay by *Rolling Stone* journalist David Fricke. Working from the simplest of musical building blocks, the Velvet Underground created a body of work whose influence has been incalculable. *Peel Slowly and See* successfully exposes the nuts and bolts of that creative process as well as celebrating the group's formidable achievements.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 *Life* ... Simply Red (East West)
- 2 *What's the Story? Morning Glory?* ... Oasis (Creation)
- 3 *Design of a Decade 1986/1994* ... Janet Jackson (A&M)
- 4 *Stanley Road* ... Paul Weller (Gut Discs)
- 5 *Daydream* ... Mariah Carey (Columbia)
- 6 *Greatest Hits 1985-1995* ... Michael Bolton (Columbia)
- 7 *The Great Escape* ... Blur (Food)
- 8 *Picture This* ... Wet Wet Wet (Precious)
- 9 *Insomniac* ... Green Day (Reprise)
- 10 *All Change* ... Cast (Polydor)

Don't trample on feet of clay

Noel Gallagher may be a boor, but that's got nothing to do with his day job, says Caitlin Moran

It's one of those primary, gut-kicking, squeally-mouthed urges human beings have, the urge for more. It's why the pudding menu exists; why there are all those extramarital, quick-jump-inelegantly-into-the-bushes affairs. Were we in heaven, we would long for a mega-heaven. The urge for more is part of the reason why Noel Gallagher from Oasis's shooting-from-the-hip-straight-into-his-foot comments some weeks back caused such a stir: we don't just want our musicians to knock out albums that make us yell with the sheer joy of it. They must also be socially aware, enlightened demi-gods with a cure for the world's ills all ready to be rolled out in between albums.

And we get disappointed when they can't manage all these things. Gallagher's comments — "I hate that Alex and Damon [from Blur]. I hope they catch Aids and die" — were thoughtless pub-thug dribbling, the kind of thing witless 15-year-old boys say in squally spots with former mates. Gallagher obviously didn't mean it, and has since apologised — handsomely and repeatedly. But he is now damaged goods: a tattered star; a stained icon. And, therefore, his band's latest album is

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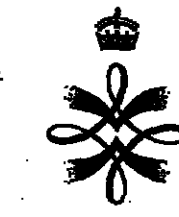
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EDUCATION

Pupils left behind in the race for results

Stand by for more good news about examination pass rates. The Government's school league tables, to be published next month, will show scores of schools increasing the number of teenagers with five top-grade GCSE passes. If the pattern of the past two years is repeated, those at the bottom of the tables will show the greatest improvement. But are standards really rising, or are schools distorting the picture?

Give educationists a formula and they will find a way of turning it to their advantage. Universities have demonstrated this over many years, reacting to funding formulae by varying recruitment and re-focusing research.

A closer look at the league tables suggests that schools are playing the same game. Since they are ranked according to the proportion of 15-year-olds with five A-C grades, it makes sense to concentrate on pupils who are on the margins of those scores. They are easy to identify from coursework.

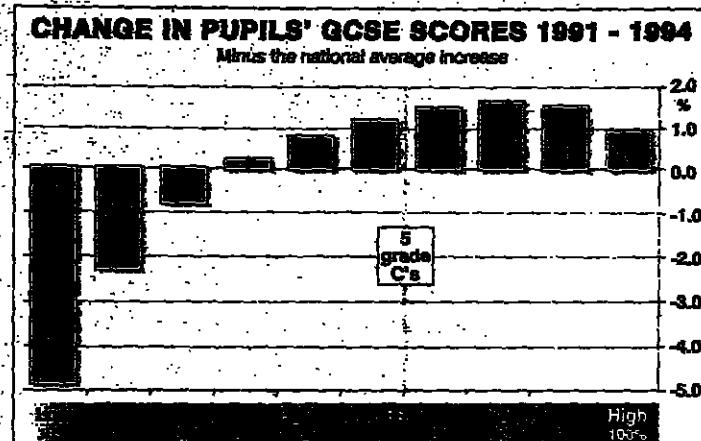
In this context, work with lower-ability groups with no real prospect of top grades is a waste of effort. And the tables suggest that the message has not been lost on some schools: for the bottom groups have failed to match the improvement of their brighter peers.

Sir Tim Lankaster, Permanent

School examination league tables are being distorted, says John O'Leary

Secretary at the Department for Education and Employment noted with satisfaction in *The Times Educational Supplement* this month that schools in the bottom quarter of the league tables have made the most progress since the Government began publishing results. But the emphasis on the performances of schools as a whole disguises the fact that the bottom

quarter of pupils have dropped further behind in the same period. While those achieving five C grades or more at GCSE have improved by an average of at least 6 per cent in three years, the quarter of pupils with the worst results have gone up by less than half this amount. The performance of the bottom 10 per cent has remained almost static.



The graph divides pupils into 10 per cent bands by their GCSE scores. Blocks show the percentage variation from the average improvement.

There may be any number of reasons for the discrepancy, including disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the curriculum, but many experts believe that the methods used to compile the league tables are partly to blame. Charles Bell, the co-ordinator of the pressure group Article 26, which has conducted a full analysis of recent GCSE results, says: "The improvement at the top end has been achieved at the expense of those at the bottom. It seems that many schools have targeted those of middling ability because improvement among low-achievers is not recognised."

Independent schools, for example, achieved spectacular increases among those on the margins of five Cs in the year that they were first required to enter the league tables. This group — in the lower regions of the independent sector — improved by an average of three grades in 1993.

Nationally, even the top 10 per cent of pupils has not kept pace with the improvement among the "middling" group identified by Article 26. Professor Carol Fitz-Gibbon, of Newcastle University, who has carried out a number of studies for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, says: "Teachers admit that they are concentrating on pushing up D



Successful pupils celebrate, but are some schools neglecting low-achievers to push brighter children?

grade students, which is not fair to the rest. I think that the National Audit Office should blow the whistle on this."

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, drew attention to the gap in achievement between the top and bottom groups in a weekend radio interview. The Article 26 research shows that it has been widening and is likely to increase, with far more teenagers expected to have left school this year without any qualifications.

Professor Alan Smithers, the director of Manchester University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, says: "We certainly are not encouraging the lower part of the ability range to develop their talents as they should. Our best

pupils compare favourably with those of other countries, but the bottom half in key subjects like mathematics or the mother tongue are a long way behind."

As long as the league tables appear in their present form, schools will have no incentive to make this group a priority, Professor Smithers believes. "The present neglect is very bad for people with low results, but it is bad for all of us because it doesn't make for a socially cohesive society."

Mr Bell's solution is to calculate results on a points system similar to the one used for A levels. With each grade counting towards an average per pupil, the school would be judged on all its results, and not just those above grade C. "Local

authorities and schools should be doing this calculation now, so that they can see if they have a problem with low-achievers."

Ministers will be reluctant to alter a system that the public recognises. Robin Squire, the Education Minister, said last week: "None of us should underestimate the way in which the information revolution spearheaded by performance tables has helped to focus us all on achievement and outcomes."

The question is whether it is focusing on the right outcomes. As the equivalent of five O levels, the present threshold is an important benchmark, which many more teenagers have reached thanks to the tables. But that is little consolation to the rest.

Lucy Hodges has a schoolwear shock for her daughter after returning from America to Britain

Is a uniform approach the most attractive?

As I look at English education with new eyes after five-and-a-half years in America, what stands out are our traditions: take school uniforms. In the United States, uniforms are virtually unknown, except in a few private schools. Every morning American children don sneakers and baggy jeans or, in summer, sneakers and shorts. I suppose it is a uniform in its own way.

But it allows for individuality. Each pair of baggy jeans is different. Some contain more holes than others, most are blue denim but some are weird and wonderful colours. The point is that children can choose what to wear. They can experiment with colour and shape. They can wear their hair loose or tied back.

On our return to Britain, we had to break the news to our daughter that she would be wearing a uniform — and it would be brown. But why?

We tried to see uniform in a positive light. Yes, maybe it papers over differences in social class and economic status by putting everyone on the same level. It probably makes teachers' lives easier by giving children something harmless to rebel against.

But are these good enough reasons for insisting on the whole paraphernalia of regulation: skirts, blazer, tights, raincoat, not to mention games skirt and shirt? Are they justification for making parents spend £100 or more? Our conclusion was that children wear uniform because of tradition. And teachers favour it because it makes children more biddable.

Personally, I much prefer the look of uniform to today's grunge. Black tights and crisp white blouses under sweat-shirts look infinitely more stylish than over-sized jeans with the crotch worn around the knees. But there's the rub: in the United States, children are given autonomy and encouraged to be independent. They arrange their own social lives on the telephone from the age of six. They are treated as people — at school they are called students rather than pupils — and regard teachers as their allies, if not

Punishments are for dishonesty or rudeness, not for wearing the wrong socks

their friends. Such mateyness creates an easy familiarity between teacher and taught.

To a Briton schooled in the art of showing respect, this familiarity is sometimes offensive. I will never forget my daughter's school ski-trip to a little mountain in Pennsylvania. We were standing in a queue waiting for the chairlift when two small children, aged about ten, began prodding a young man in the behind with their ski poles. We couldn't see who he was because he was shrouded in ski gear.

"Hey, Mr. Telloch," yelled the two girls, poking him in the buttocks. Sure enough, it

was a hapless teacher. He smiled cheerily and waved his ski pole back while we stiffened and looked silently at one another. "What a way to treat a teacher," we thought.

At my daughter's English private school, the children stand up when a teacher enters the room and chant: "Good morning, Miss so-and-so." To me, this signifies a necessary respect, and I'm sure it gets the lesson off to an calm and orderly start. To an American-educated child, of course, it sounds unnatural.

What matters in the end is the kind of adults we are producing. The American system is designed to educate confident, adaptable people, grounded in the basics, able to go out into the world and make something of themselves. It doesn't always succeed, just as our system sometimes doesn't.

The good thing about America is that petty rules and restrictions are kept to a minimum. Students and staff get on with the business of learning, thinking and relating to one another. Punishments are meted out for dishonesty or rudeness, not for wearing the wrong colour socks.

I am not saying all tradition is bad, just that we need to take a hard look at what we are doing and why. Children are easily brainwashed. My daughter has already taken to her uniform. "You know," she said to me, "the good thing about uniform is that you don't have to think about what you're going to put on every morning." I hope she doesn't stop thinking altogether.



Should children express their individuality, or is Prince William's Eton outfit ideal?

Superstars of the science lab

Is commerce damaging pure research, asks Colin Campbell

BARELY a day passes without one or other of the quality newspapers featuring a research breakthrough at a British university. Frequently, when medical researchers believe they are getting close to a cure for some terrible disease, the headlines are eye-catching.

Every institution, and most individual academics, enjoy seeing the fruits of their labour recognised, not only by their peers in the pages of learned journals, but also through the quality press and broadcast media. All of this is a valuable advertisement for the quality of British higher education and academic research.

But it also has to be accepted that the whole question of publication in the wider world is the subject of fierce debate within the leading research universities.

This is particularly so where heavily funded but basically fundamental work rarely has a sufficiently populist appeal to satisfy the headline writers, or where medical researchers are rightly wary about publishing too early and raising too many hopes of miracle cures. At Nottingham, our research funding has more than quadrupled in the past ten years. Our 1994-95 research awards of £40 million represented a 22 per cent increase over the record-breaking £32.8 million of the previous year.

Many projects, including the development through genetic engineering of the "perfect supermarket tomato" by Professor Don Grierson and his team, or the first application of magnetic resonance imaging as a medical diagnostic technique, which won for Professor Peter Mansfield international acclaim and a well-deserved knighthood, have gained significant media coverage.

For many years, Nottingham has featured either first or in the top five of British universities for funding from private industry and commerce. Many of the results and findings from our research projects achieve what is, in the necessarily measured academic timescale, a relatively rapid commercial or medical application.

Other projects which attract millions of pounds of funding from both research councils and the private sector, and are of tremen-

dous potential importance in many fields, are by their nature slower to identify specific applications. They are, understandably, less attractive to the media.

Nottingham encourages all its academic staff to look "beyond research" to the needs of the end-user and consider technology transfer in its broadest sense, together with the implications it has for wealth creation and the quality of life.

Going beyond research implies not only using research results and ideas for commercial applications, but also in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Research excellence underpins everything we do at Nottingham, and the quality of our graduates is a significant aspect of our technology transfer.

Three questions are constantly being asked: how can a university maintain its credibility as a centre for fundamental research while at the same time publicising innovations that will be a success in the marketplace?

Do academics lose credibility among their peers if they appear frequently in the popular press? Do they run the risk of being regarded by colleagues as media performers first and researchers second?

The pursuit of fundamental research, vital to Britain's future, is a difficult activity to communicate to the public, as everyone involved in moves to popularise science has discovered. By contrast, much of our work in the humanities and social sciences, for example, on D.H. Lawrence or risk analysis in economics, is more accessible. It would be tempting to change what we do in order to make it closer to the marketplace and consequently, in the short-term view, of greater value.

Such an attitude would be damaging, not only to the future wellbeing of the nation, but also to our own mission to be at the cutting edge of research.

We will continue to encourage researchers to publish their findings, but we will not neglect those of our researchers working in the more fundamental areas, and press for the importance of their contribution being recognised.

Colin Campbell is the Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham University

The language of national interest

Graham Furniss argues that we should learn to talk to foreigners

Despite the compassion shown in projects such as Comic Relief and Live Aid, the British often exhibit a deep distrust of foreigners. Ranging from the mildly Euro-sceptic to the outright xenophobic, this trait has been reinforced by a very narrow definition of the "national interest" from politicians and commentators.

British interests have sometimes been defined simply in terms of strategic defence. Bluntly put, if that lot over there are not in a position to bomb us, or attack one of our allies, then there is no British national interest in that part of the world.

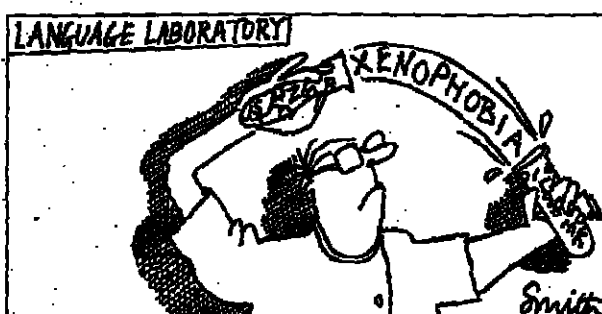
At other times, the overriding factor has been the commercial interests of British companies: if there is no money to be made in a given part of the world now or in the next three or four years, then there is no national interest.

I would argue that our nation's interest, or the interests of the British people, go far wider than simply defence and trade. Key world problems such as environmental

destruction and regional conflicts have a bearing on us in Britain and require us to take a keen interest in what is going on all over the world.

Even where British commercial interests are involved, we often take a rather short-sighted view of what is needed to protect, promote and expand our commercial relationships with other countries. Unlike many of our competitors we often don't bother to learn the languages and understand the cultures of the countries with which we do business. There is much evidence to suggest that this adversely affects our competitive performance in world markets.

Commercial competitors, such as the Germans, or the Japanese or the Koreans, often speak very good English. The French as a nation are, like us, generally resistant to learning foreign languages, but they do have a more integrated view of a common purpose between business, trade, education and



foreign policy. The various parts of government that advance foreign policy — from arms sales and economic assistance to cultural organisations — often seem to work hand in hand as far as the French sphere of influence is concerned. The British have a much more fragmented approach which weakens our efforts to promote British interests, whether in defence, commerce or culture.

I see a positive and important role for the teaching and study of languages in our society today. In particular, I

see the teaching of Asian and African languages as one activity among many which support and keep alive an informed, internationalist spirit in this country.

The first problem for teachers is to find the most effective way to transmit competence in the language. We try using modern technology, from the language lab to the Internet by way of CD-Roms and the ubiquitous Walkman, but it is what happens in the classroom that makes all the difference to speedy competence.

Language learning is not a

single activity. There are at least four quite separate skills to be learnt: listening, speaking, reading and writing. While most language teaching aims to impart skills in all these areas, the needs of a learner can vary quite radically: no doubt CIA eavesdroppers during the Cold War needed to be able to listen and understand both contemporary Russian slang as well as Russian dialects and accents, but maybe they had no need to be able to read or to write Russian, or even to speak it.

The second concern is a much more unfashionable one. Where competence acquisition has been seen in the last 20 years as a primary purpose, and occasionally exclusively so, we have tried to temper that purely utilitarian attitude with another view. Language study is also an intellectual training in its own right.

Much of what young people will need to be able to do in the world of work is to understand and use complex systems that

have their own internal rules, and at the same time they need to be able to absorb and retain myriad bits of information. To learn and study a language is a perfect training in precisely these transferable skills of systems analysis and data storage.

The third component in our juggling act is the main focus of many teachers' interests. It is language as the key which opens the door into another culture. Clearly, it is possible to do many kinds of research without a knowledge of the local language. Macroeconomists use data available in English, or perhaps French, and set their computers to crunch their numbers for countries and cultures unknown to them personally.

But anyone interested in what people think in that country or how they behave economically, or what motivates them politically, must clearly operate in the language, or a language, of that society.

The author is dean of languages at London University's School of African and Oriental Studies.

Hill under fire for conceding title race

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN AIDA, JAPAN

AN AIR of pastoral calm hung over the deserted circuit here yesterday. Michael Schumacher kicked a football about in the paddock and Damon Hill sauntered around the track on a broken leg that appears to have healed remarkably quickly. Everything seemed right with the world, far away from the hustle of the racing cities, but the locals are worried trouble is coming.

They say the unseasonably warm weather is a warning that another earthquake is drawing near and, as they fret, the Formula One motor racing drivers do their best to echo the prediction in their own arena. The championship is all but over but each driver is gathering himself for a thunderous final effort this weekend.

Schumacher insisted that he would not attempt to cruise to the fourth place he needs to secure his second successive championship but would go all out to claim victory. Hill, who passed a medical yesterday and does not expect to suffer any discomfort from his right leg during the Pacific Grand Prix on Sunday, backtracked from his concession of the title to his German rival.

"My goal here is to keep hope alive," Hill said. "You have always got to hope. The championship is still a possibility for me, although realistically I suppose you have got to say it is only a matter of time until Michael scores the three

points he needs. On top of that, though, it would be great if Williams-Renault could win the constructors' championship and I have to get the best results we possibly can to try to achieve that.

"Michael had a big accident in testing at Imola last week and it reminds you how perilous this business can be and how it all hangs by a thread. The moment you think you have got it in the bag is the time when you really have to concentrate. That is something that every driver recognises."

As Hill spoke, though, both Coulthard and Martin Brundle questioned his attitude and his racing skills after a series of inconsistent performances. The young Scot, who has his sights set on finishing above his team-mate in the championship race, said he would not have conceded the title to Schumacher, as Hill did three weeks ago, until it was mathematically impossible for him to be overhauled.

"I cannot see myself ever allowing myself to give up," Coulthard said. "If you give up once, you will always give up. I did not agree with what he said and I made that clear at the time. No matter how unlikely it is, it can be done. It can be done. Michael has to drop out three times and Damon has to win three times, but that is possible."

Brundle, who learnt yesterday that he has been replaced by Aguri Suzuki for the next two races at Jerez, claimed that most of his fellow drivers had lost some respect for Hill recently. "Damon has to do more things," he said. "First, he has to establish himself as the No 1 at Williams for next year so the team can give him their full support. Second, he has to re-establish himself as a racer. Maybe he needs to lose a front wheel once or twice to re-establish himself."

If the earthquake is coming, after the season he has had, Hill looks certain to be at its epicentre.



Coulthard: critical



Bates, left, and Harding, right, keep their distance at the book launch, flanking Buckland, the author, and Lord Attenborough

Frosty fandango at the Bridge of whys

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 11, 1970, Chelsea played Leeds United in the FA Cup final at Wembley. At the end of 90 minutes the score was 2-2 and it remained 2-2 after extra time.

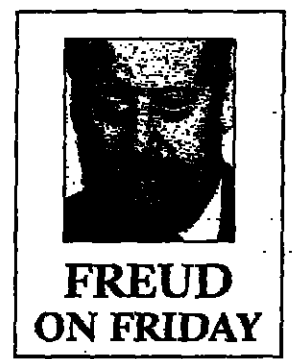
The teams replayed at Old Trafford 18 days later. Leeds scored in the first half. Chelsea in the second. Then, in the dying minutes of the first half of the second period of extra time, 23 minutes into the longest Cup Final on record, David Webb scored the winner for the London team.

As this occurred 25 years ago, was Chelsea's finest hour and they have not had a lot about which to crow since, a Chelsea supporter — one who has already written books on beer and football — has compiled a modest volume replete with pictures called *Blue is the Colour*. It is sponsored by Coors, who tell us: "The yeast used to make Coors Extra Gold is flown from the US to the UK in a business class seat."

In the Stamford Bridge bar, where the book party took place, members of the press, footballers of yore (none of

whom looked significantly better than they did), Chelsea-supporting luvvies and politicians mingled while they awaited action. "I hope," the author speaking to us said, "that she eventually got to her malfunctioning microphone — after the coffee and biscuits, before the buffet lunch — that this book will give you as much pleasure to read as it gave me to write." From the expression on the faces of those who had perused the 92 pages, it was evident that Ms Khadija Buckland has had a wrenching time.

Chelsea's ground is at present a giant building site: a new North Stand is in the process of erection and the heavy dust of cement clouds a scenario of intense uplight rivalry worthy of soap opera. There is a seagull, Chairman Ken, paid executive and for 13 years the only Chelsea voice allowed to be heard. He is a grey-bearded buccanier, born with a club-foot which would cause others to limp but gives Bates a swagger. In his time he has quarried gravel in Lancashire, founded a Dublin bank which went to the wall, and made money in sugar in



FREUD ON FRIDAY

Australia, land reclamation in the West Indies and building in South Africa.

For four years he was going to save Oldham Athletic but gave up the uneven struggle and came to Chelsea. Like Gianni Agnelli, of Fiat, he believes that a successful company needs an uneven number of directors and three is too many. There is a story, no doubt apocryphal, about the Ken Bates postage stamp — in test marketing it was found to slide from envelopes; apparently people were spitting on the wrong side. Under Bates, Chelsea flip-flopped between the two top divisions; the natives became restless.

The second lead in the cast of two is Matthew Harding, aged 41, bluish son of an insurance man, passionate about Chelsea, whom he has supported since the age of eight. He was as miserable about the club's performance as his mates on the terraces, only Harding, having followed his father into the City and set up the Benfield Group, is worth over £150 million. He bought the Chelsea ground (£16.5 million), Rudi Gutlit (£4.5 million), gave the club a £25 million loan for future purchases, became a director and is too bright a man, too astute an operator, to have us believe he has no ambition to oust the Chairman asap.

There is an uneasy relationship between the men, a noticeable frigid flow from the Chairman's partner to the new landlord.

As an occasion, *Blue is the Colour*'s launch gave little cause to delight those who had made the journey down the Fulham Road: tea and coffee were adequate, biscuits unsurprising in their ordinariness and the buffet reminiscent of Florida restaurants offering "all you can eat for \$9.99". It

was the tension which was compulsive: the fandango, danced to the muted sounds of two dozen television screens depicting Chelsea's players' aerobics, which never had Bates, holding a glass of wine, in the same close-camera shot as Harding, who drinks Guinness.

Who asked the guests to arrive at 11.30 when nothing happened until 12.25? Who forgot to switch on the microphone until the author's speech was nearly over? Where was David Mellor and Hoddle and Gullit and Hughes? Where was the optimism which we had come to witness?

Harding, we were told, bought the books, gave to guests and paid for the buffet, so what was Bates doing there, and should not the presence of Lord Attenborough, Tony Banks, MP, Clive Mantle, of *Casualty*, have been exploited? Why is the yeast for Coors flown across the Atlantic in business class?

There's much to explain. This story has the makings of a series that will run. *"Blue is the Colour"* (£14.99, published by Red House)

Business as usual for teams not involved in big event

BY NICK HARDING

SOMEHOW, while the eyes of the basketball world are focused on Houston Rockets in the McDonald's Championship at the London Arena this weekend, ten Budweiser League clubs must find it within themselves to fulfil their domestic obligations.

What they would all give to be in the position of Sheffield Sharks, even if the Sharks only have to play a match tomorrow morning to decide fifth and sixth places in the event which serves as the unofficial world club championship. For that they will receive either \$15,000 (about £10,000) or \$20,000, not bad for a club formed just 18 months ago.

Sheffield's good fortune was to win the league in the year that the McDonald's event was coming to Britain. Had they triumphed in any other year, they would not have been considered.

The Leopards, meanwhile, have had to vacate their home court at the London Arena for the duration and travel to play Chester Jets on Sunday. "We don't feel left out," Billy Mims, the Leopards' coach, insisted. "We're pulling for Sheffield throughout. They earned the right to be there."

"I want all my kids to be watching. These are champions on basketball teams from all over the world and I would like my players to aspire to be of their calibre. Sometimes it's better to sit back and watch. They will be able to see the difference between them and us. They will be able to ask themselves why they are there and we are not."

Worthing Bears entertain Doncaster Panthers tomorrow night hoping to avenge their one league defeat of the season. The Bears go to Leicester City Sharks on the night. The Panthers entertain Derby Storm in the 7-4 Trophy.

Hemel Hempstead Royals and Manchester Giants tip off at the unusual hour of 1.30pm on Sunday at the Dacorum Centre. However, there will be a more orthodox starting time at Wembley Court (5pm), when London Towers attempt to join the Sharks at the top of the Budweiser League by beating Newcastle Comets.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand comes with the heading "to draw trump or not to draw trump, that is the question" — typical of the jokey style (trump is the American spelling) of my old friend Eddie Kantar. He has won the Bermuda Bowl and also played table tennis for the US, a unique double. He is the finest bridge player I've ever come across; he used to split sets with Margaret Court.

Nowadays if you want to speak to him go down to Venice Beach in Santa Monica. He will be sitting post-reading his latest book, waiting to cut into the next game of paddle tennis.

Dealer South	Love all
♠ 432	♥ A1086
♥ 105	♦ 786
♦ A1075	♣ 1094
♣ K65	♠ 1098
♠ K8	♥ 786
♥ 32	♦ 1094
♦ Q8632	♣ 1098
♣ 1098	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: Jack of Clubs

South opens One Heart and rebids Four Hearts over his partner's 1NT response. How should he play on the lead of the Jack of Clubs? This is Kantar's analysis: "The name of the game is 10. You need 10 tricks so count to see how many you have. You have six hearts, two clubs and one diamond for sure. Where is the 10th one coming from? It is going to come from ruffing the fourth club in dummy with the ten of hearts."

"Win the king of clubs, discard a spade on the ace of diamonds, cross to the ace of clubs and concede a club. No matter what, you can ruff your fourth club for your 10th trick." The hand comes from the 1996 Daily Bridge Calendar. It has a near-off shoot with a bridge hand for each day. I found it entertaining and it is good value at about 4p a hand. You can order it from CLD Stationery Ltd (tel 0171 610 9292, price £14.95).

□ Three of the medals in the 1995 World Championships in Beijing have been decided. In the Venice Cup, Germany obliterated the United States over the final 32 deals to win by 312 IMPs to 248. Beate Nehmert and Andrea Rausch performed magnificently in the final session against Karen McCullum and Kerri Sanborn, the world's leading women players, to clinch the victory for Germany. In the play-offs for the bronze medals, France overpowered the demoralised Swedish team to win by 151-91, and France won a close match against the host nation, China, by 60-54 in the Venice Cup.

In the Bermuda Bowl, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell played the United States team into a winning position against Canada. The USA won the morning session yesterday by 54 IMPs, and with 32 deals to be played today the Americans lead by 596-221. The margin is not insuperable, but it will require a super human effort by Canada to prevent the USA from regaining the title that they lost won in 1989.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Systems man

I continue my series on past aspirants for the world chess title with Aron Nimzowitsch. Although Nimzowitsch never played a world championship match, there was a period, after his great victory at the tournament in Carlsbad 1929, up to his second place behind Alekhine at San Remo 1930, when Nimzowitsch could have been considered the No 2 player in the world. Indeed, his visiting card stated himself Crown prince of the chess world. His style revolved around a deep and mysterious strategy, yet paradoxically, he also produced one of the most lucid expositions of chess generalship in his influential work *My System*. The following game, in which he reduces his opponent to utter paralysis on a board virtually full of pieces is one of the most extraordinary on record.

White: Fritz Saemisch
Black: Aron Nimzowitsch
Copenhagen 1923

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e5
3	Nf3	d5
4	g3	Bd6
5	Bg2	Bb7
6	Nc3	O-O
7	O-O	c5
8	Ne5	d5
9	exd5	cxd5
10	Bd3	a6
11	Rc1	b5

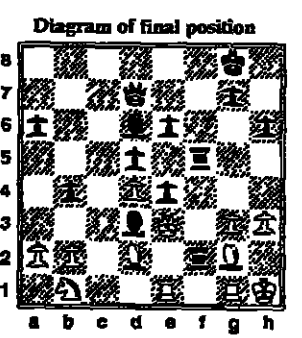


Diagram of final position

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Kasparov - Anand, Intel World Championship, game 8 1995. In this complex endgame, White has dangerous play thanks to his advanced central pawns. How can he now make the most of this?

12	Ob3	Nc6
13	Nb6	Bxc6
14	Kf2	Qd7
15	Kf3	Nf5
16	Bd3	b4
17	Od1	b4
18	Nb1	Bb6
19	Rf1	Bd6
20	e4	h4
21	Qd5	Rd2
22	Qd5	Rd2
23	Kf1	Rd5
24	Qc3	Bd3
25	Rc1	h6

White resigns
Unfortunately Nimzowitsch could never cope with the dynamic sacrificial style of his great rival Alekhine, as the following game reveals

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Aron Nimzowitsch
Bled 1931

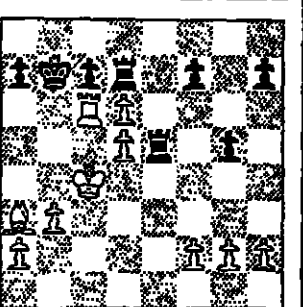
1	e4	e5
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	Bd6
4	Nf3	Bxc3+
5	a3	is
6	Nc3	is
7	is	exd3
8	Qd3	Qxd4
9	Qd3	Qxd4
10	Qd3	Qxd4
11	Be2	Qxd4
12	Qd3	Qxd4
13	Qd3	Qxd4
14	Qd3	Qxd4
15	O-O	Qxd4
16	Rh1	Be4
17	Bh5	Nd6
18	Rd5	Nd6
19	Oxd5	Black resigns

The Times World Championship book

All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in *The Times Book World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01753 327901 (please quote 51663).

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE



Solution on page 46

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: American League: Cleveland 4 Seattle 0 (Cleveland won best-of-seven series 4-2 and most Atlanta Braves in the World Series).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester Giants 79 Chester Jets 74. 7-UP TROPHY: Hemel Hempstead Royals 68 Birmingham Bulls 65.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Brisbane: Queensland 306-5 (Stuart Law 65, Jimmy Maher 63 not out, Matthew Hayden 64) vs Victoria: Perth: Western Australia 351-3 (de M. Lavender 173 not out, T. Moody 57 not out, New South Wales 10-1).

CYCLING

MILAN TO TURIN (207 kilometres): 1. S. Zanardi (It) 47:50m. 2. R. Sørensen (Den) 51:30. 3. P. Casagrande (It) 51:40. 4. D. Nardello (It) 51:45. 5. M. Geronzi (It) 51:50.

EQUESTRIANISM

MONTERREY: International show jumping: Agnes Santa Maria, Welcome Steiner, Lennarth P. Wierberg, Carl J. Eklund, A. Eklund, M. J. Eklund, B. Eklund, C. Eklund, D. Eklund, E. Eklund, F. Eklund, G. Eklund, H. Eklund, I. Eklund, J. Eklund, K. Eklund, L. Eklund, M. Eklund, N. Eklund, O. Eklund, P. Eklund, Q. Eklund, R. Eklund, S. Eklund, T. Eklund, U. Eklund, V. Eklund, W. Eklund, X. Eklund, Y. Eklund, Z. Eklund.

FOOTBALL

SUPERCUP: São Paulo (Br) 0 Olimpia (Par) 3.

WEDNESDAY'S LATEST RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP: Champions' League: Group A: FC Porto (Por) 0 Panathinaikos (Gr) 0. Group B: Lazio (It) 1 FC Schalke 04 (Ger) 0. Group C: Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 FC Schalke 04 (Ger) 0. Group D: Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 FC Schalke 04 (Ger) 0.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: First leg: Kazakhstan 1 Real Betis 3.

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division: Lincoln United 1.

FA TROPHY: First qualifying round: Reading 10 Walsley 0.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Second leg: Kazakhstan 1 Real Betis 3.

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division: Lincoln United 1.

FA TROPHY: First qualifying round: Reading 10 Walsley 0.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Second leg: Kazakhstan 1 Real Betis 3.

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LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Second leg: Kazakhstan 1 Real Betis 3.

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division: Lincoln United 1.

FA TROPHY: First qualifying round: Reading 10 Walsley 0.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Second leg: Kazakhstan 1 Real Betis 3.

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division: Lincoln United 1.

FA TROPHY: First qualifying round: Reading 10 Walsley 0.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: Second leg: Kazakhstan 1 Real Betis 3.

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division:

Meehan has classic faith in Tumbleweed Ridge

BY OUR RACING STAFF

BRIAN MEEHAN reached the most significant milestone of his training career when he saddled Tumbleweed Ridge to land his first group victory at Newbury yesterday.

The Lambourn trainer capped what is already his most successful season after just three years in charge of his own string when the Indian Ridge colt captured the group three Vodafone Horris Hill Stakes.

Back in 1989, Meehan was working as assistant trainer to Richard Hannon when Tumbleweed Ridge triumphed in this 7½-furlong race before going on to claim the 2,000 Guineas the following season.

Having rapidly established himself, Meehan is pursuing his own classic dream with Tumbleweed Ridge. The colt's odds were cut to 40-1 for the 1996 classic by William Hill after he had accounted for Busy Flight by half a length with Brandon Magle a neck away third.

"It's been a fantastic year and this is very exciting," said Meehan, who is holding each

way vouchers about his colt at 100-1 and 66-1. Meehan added: "Tumbleweed Ridge had a hard race when he was second in the Royal Ascot in the Gimcrack and he was a gallop short when he ran at Newmarket last time. Provided everything goes smoothly, he will be a Guineas horse next year and we will bring him

Nag: WOODRISING
(240 Newbury)
Next best: Acquisitum
(520 Fakenham)

back for a prep race in the spring.

Meehan, who has saddled 42 winners this season, has already invested in future talent, paying 28,000 guineas for Tumbleweed Ridge's half-sister at last week's Newmarket Houghton sales.

Reg Akhurst equalled his best total, achieving last year when Domulla followed up

Bimsey's success at Nottingham with a three-length victory in the Gardner Merchant Handicap.

The Epsom trainer had been without a Flat win for six weeks, but he returned to form when his 3-1 chance, who paid 655-20, on the stormed clear of Spaniards Cram with his better-fancied stable companion, Astrac, third.

"I don't like running two in one race and running a horse that is out of the handicap is worse still. But Domulla needs soft ground and there was nowhere else to run," Akhurst said. "The horses have just had niggly problems and when the weather turns it is a difficult time for training."

While Akhurst has struggled, Barry Hills has been in irresistible form and he secured another double when Fly Tip made a winning debut and the highly tried Birt Zamzama did not appear to break well either. Let's hope he will make it to Epsom as I'd like to think he's a group horse in the making."

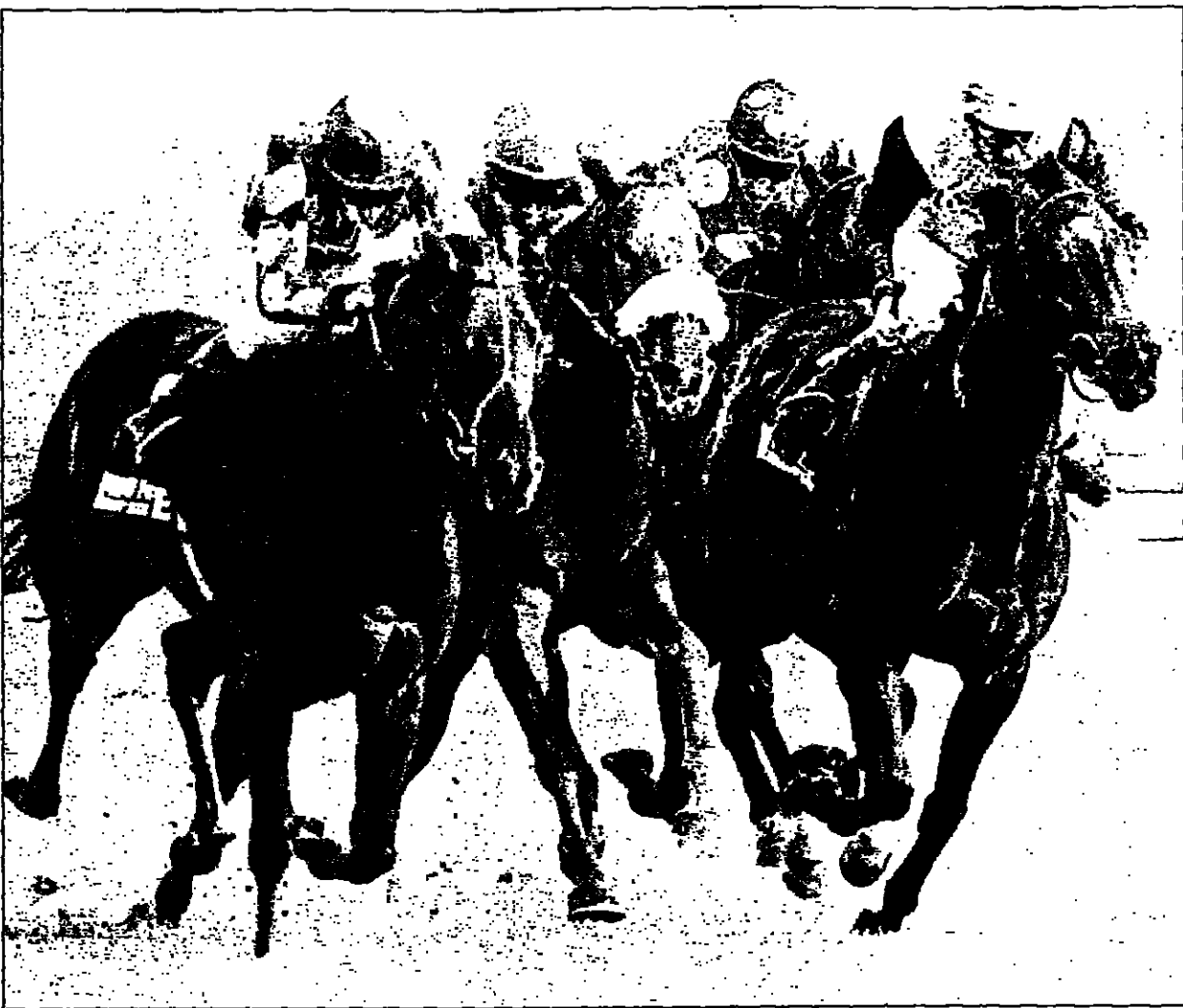
Burke, beat Herodian in the Theale Maiden Stakes.

Henry Cecil has often used Nottingham to introduce some of his well-regarded juveniles and word from Newmarket was that Dushyantor, a son of Sadler's Wells, fell into that category.

With Pat Eddery suspended, Willie Ryan was given the ride. But those backers prepared to lay the odds were made to sweat for their money. Showing signs of greenness, the 3-1 on shot was given time to settle by Ryan.

Picking up ground once in line for home, the favourite appeared to be caught flat-footed as Altamira made a determined dash over two furlongs out. However, rallying strongly, Dushyantor was able to strike the front well inside the distance to win by three-quarters of a length.

The winning trainer said: "He ran very well, but he's still green and didn't appear to break well either. Let's hope he will make it to Epsom as I'd like to think he's a group horse in the making."



Tumbleweed Ridge (left) swoops to capture the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury yesterday

THUNDERER	
2.05 Jathin	3.40 Stompin
2.40 Executive Design	4.10 General Command
3.10 Buckboard Bounce	4.40 Sweet Mignonette
	5.10 Toward

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO FIRM (HURDLES)	
2.05 OCTOBER HANDICAP HURDLE (24.50; 3m 110yds) (5 runners)	
1. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
2. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
3. 2313-00 LANSINGWORTH (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	A P McCoy (6) 10
4. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
5. 4541-11 GREAT WARRICKS (11F 8.5) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

FORM FOCUS	
Moving Out 2nd at Newbury (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
Lansingworth 2nd at Newbury (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	A P McCoy (6) 10
Great Warricks 2nd at Newbury (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

2.40 FALCON GATHERING EQUIPMENT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (24.50; 2m 110yds) (14 runners)	
1. 1451-14 ANGLIA (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
2. 1451-14 ANGLIA (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
3. 1451-14 ANGLIA (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
4. 1451-14 ANGLIA (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
5. 1451-14 ANGLIA (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

FORM FOCUS	
Anglia 2nd at Newbury (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
Anglia 2nd at Newbury (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
Anglia 2nd at Newbury (24.50) (14 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
Trainers	Winners
1. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
2. 2313-00 LANSINGWORTH (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	A P McCoy (6) 10
3. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
4. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
5. 4541-11 GREAT WARRICKS (11F 8.5) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

THUNDERER	
2.20 Wordsmith, 2.50 Dennington, 3.20 Nobility, 3.50 Europa, 4.20 Cantor's Frater, 4.50 Bushnell, 5.20 Acquisitum.	

GOING: GOOD	
2.20 WALSHINGHAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (22.70; 2m) (10 runners)	
1. 054-1 LANE RISK (22.70) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 054-1 LANE RISK (22.70) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 054-1 LANE RISK (22.70) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 054-1 LANE RISK (22.70) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 054-1 LANE RISK (22.70) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

2.50 PUNDING NORTHON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (23.07; 3m 110yds) (5 runners)	
1. 251-1 THE BLUE CLUB (23.07) (5 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
2. 251-1 THE BLUE CLUB (23.07) (5 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
3. 251-1 THE BLUE CLUB (23.07) (5 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
4. 251-1 THE BLUE CLUB (23.07) (5 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
5. 251-1 THE BLUE CLUB (23.07) (5 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10

3.20 WIMPEY HOMES NOVICES CHASE (23.37; 2m 110yds) (8 runners)	
1. 252-1 LANE RISK (23.37) (8 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
2. 252-1 LANE RISK (23.37) (8 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
3. 252-1 LANE RISK (23.37) (8 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
4. 252-1 LANE RISK (23.37) (8 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10
5. 252-1 LANE RISK (23.37) (8 runners) 1-10	T J Murphy (6) 10

3.50 MICHAEL SCOTNEY TURF ACCOUNTANT HANDICAP HURDLE (23.02; 2m) (4 runners)	
1. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.02) (4 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.02) (4 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.02) (4 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.02) (4 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

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D'CASTER	
101/201/301	
102/202/302	
103/203/303	
104/204/304	
105/205/305	

3.10 GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (27.24; 2m 4) (6 runners)	
1. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
2. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
3. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
4. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
5. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

FORM FOCUS	
Clifton Beat 2nd at Newbury (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
Clifton Beat 2nd at Newbury (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
Clifton Beat 2nd at Newbury (27.24) (6 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

3.40 FLAVEL-LEASURE FOUR YEAR OLD HURDLE (23.03; 2m 110yds) (8 runners)	
1. 1110-1 STOMPIN (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10
2. 1110-1 STOMPIN (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10
3. 1110-1 STOMPIN (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10
4. 1110-1 STOMPIN (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10
5. 1110-1 STOMPIN (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10

FORM FOCUS	
Stompin 2nd at Newbury (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10
Stompin 2nd at Newbury (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10
Stompin 2nd at Newbury (23.03) (8 runners) 1-10	J Dwyer (6) 10

4.10 LEISURE PREMIER PARTNERSHIP NOVICES CHASE (23.40; 2m 110yds) (5 runners)	
1. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

FORM FOCUS	
Hire a Mistake 2nd at Newbury (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
Hire a Mistake 2nd at Newbury (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
Hire a Mistake 2nd at Newbury (23.40) (5 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

THUNDERER	
2.00 Tameam, 2.30 Green Land, 3.00 Ancestry, 3.30 Old Rival, 4.00 CRYSTAL FALLS (nap), 4.30 Dowling, 5.00 Nordic Dole.	

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)	
2.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND CISWO MAIDEN STAKES (23.40; 2m) (12 runners)	
1. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

2.00 LITTLE SNORING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1; 22.52; 2m) (9 runners)	
1. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.52) (9 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.52) (9 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.52) (9 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.52) (9 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.52) (9 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

5.20 LITTLE SNORING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div 2; 22.54; 2m) (8 runners)	
1. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.54) (8 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.54) (8 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.54) (8 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.54) (8 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 2111-1 DOWNHILL DREAM (22.54) (8 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
Trainers	Winners
1. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
2. 2313-00 LANSINGWORTH (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	A P McCoy (6) 10
3. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
4. 0551-14 CLIFTON BEAT (24.50) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
5. 4541-11 GREAT WARRICKS (11F 8.5) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

Blinkered first time	
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 3.00 Sinking Sun, 4.30 Desert Vagabond.	

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GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD	
701 113143 6000 TIMES 13 (OFF 6.55) (M) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
702 113143 6000 TIMES 13 (OFF 6.55) (M) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
703 113143 6000 TIMES 13 (OFF 6.55) (M) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
704 113143 6000 TIMES 13 (OFF 6.55) (M) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10
705 113143 6000 TIMES 13 (OFF 6.55) (M) (5 runners) 1-10	M J Dwyer (7) 10

4.40 SEVEN BARROWS HANDICAP HURDLE (23.38; 2m 110yds) (5 runners)	
1. 1511-1 SWEET MIGNONETTE (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10
2. 1511-1 SWEET MIGNONETTE (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10
3. 1511-1 SWEET MIGNONETTE (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10
4. 1511-1 SWEET MIGNONETTE (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10
5. 1511-1 SWEET MIGNONETTE (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10

FORM FOCUS	
Sweet Mignonette 2nd at Newbury (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10
Sweet Mignonette 2nd at Newbury (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10
Sweet Mignonette 2nd at Newbury (23.38) (5 runners) 1-10	P McCoy (6) 10

5.10 NEWBURY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21.52; 2m 110yds) (25 runners)	
1. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 101F HIRE A MISTAKE (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

FORM FOCUS	
Hire a Mistake 2nd at Newbury (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
Hire a Mistake 2nd at Newbury (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
Hire a Mistake 2nd at Newbury (21.52) (25 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

THUNDERER	
2.00 Tameam, 2.30 Green Land, 3.00 Ancestry, 3.30 Old Rival, 4.00 CRYSTAL FALLS (nap), 4.30 Dowling, 5.00 Nordic Dole.	

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)	
2.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND CISWO MAIDEN STAKES (23.40; 2m) (12 runners)	
1. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (12 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

4.00 CPL HOMERIDE NURSERY HANDICAP (23.40; 2m) (10 runners)	
1. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (10 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

4.30 BRITISH COAL ENTERPRISE CLAIMING STAKES (23.40; 2m) (19 runners)	
1. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (19 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (19 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (19 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (19 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (19 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

5.00 S.L.A. APPRENTICE HANDICAP (23.40; 2m) (22 runners)	
1. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (22 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (22 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (22 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (22 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (22 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

3.00 EBF COOPERATIVE PARK FILLIES MAIDEN STAKES (23.40; 2m) (11 runners)	
1. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (11 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
2. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (11 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
3. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (11 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
4. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (11 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10
5. 054-1 LANE RISK (23.40) (11 runners) 1-10	D Gifford (6) 10

3.00 E

Supporters quick to return attention to domestic matters

Rangers rue lack of Continental panache

By Kevin McCarrar

RANGERS supporters, for their own safety, were detained for 15 minutes at the Stadio delle Alpi on Wednesday after Juventus' 4-1 victory in the European Cup Champions' League match. They passed the time by singing of their conviction that the club will, in 1996, win a tenth successive Scottish League championship and eclipse Celtic's record.

The desire to celebrate Rangers at such a moment demonstrated resilience, but also spoke of the comforts of parochialism. The club's followers seemed close to accepting that European football is beyond their team. The defeat had been as great an embarrassment for Rangers as anyone, at short notice, could recall. Juventus scored four times, but had half a dozen been required, they would have got them with ease.

In three Champions' League fixtures, Rangers have recorded two defeats and a draw. Only the fact that Blackburn Rovers are pointless in the same competition preserves, in British terms, some self-respect. Yesterday, Walter Smith, the manager, calculated that Rangers need to beat Juventus at Ibrox in two weeks' time if they are to have any hope of qualifying from group C as runners-up.

Smith's arithmetic may be impeccable, but there is no reason to accept that his side is capable of such a result. Football is sustained by the myth of progress and Rangers have always believed that their substantial investment, year by year, was carrying them towards the forefront of European football. To a club such as Juventus, however, they remain only a smudge on the horizon.

Marcello Lippi, the coach of the Italian champions, remarked that the match had

turned out much as he expected. No insult was intended; he simply offered an honest account of the side's differing capabilities. With three goals in the first 23 minutes, Juventus scarcely met even with resistance.

For any British club visiting Turin, the template to be employed might be Arsenal's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final victory of 1980, when Paul Vaessen scored the only goal of a tense game against Juventus in the closing moments. Rangers could not muster such hardiness and sheer humiliation lay behind Alex Cleland's coarse foul on Alessandro Del Piero that brought an ordering-off in the second half.

Smith sought no sympathy for the absence of Paul Gascoigne, Brian Laudrup, Charlie Miller and Alan McClaren. The Juventus squad, he noted, was just as depleted. Rangers had mislaid not so much a handful of players as the cohesiveness that protects them in domestic football. Four goals were lost on Wednesday, yet Rangers have conceded only two to date in the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

When the worth of a team is being assessed, European football applies more exacting criteria. Against Juventus, Rangers were panic-stricken in defence, outmanoeuvred in midfield and clumsy in attack. They may consequently dream of the abolition of the three-foreigners restriction, that would allow them to import as much talent as they can afford.

However, demographics and economics will make it impossible for Rangers to match clubs such as Juventus even then. In any case, money may not be the sole answer. On Wednesday, the Continent staged an extended exhibition



Salenko, right, of Rangers, struggles to get the better of Porrini during the Champions' League match in Turin

of precocity. Del Piero, 20, overwhelmed Rangers. In Madrid, Raul, 18, scored a hat-trick for Real against Ferencvaros. Patrick Kluivert, 19, struck twice in Ajax's 3-0 victory over Grasshoppers and a goal from Lars Ricken, also 19, of Borussia Dortmund, beat Steaua Bucharest.

Each has been produced by his club's own youth policy. Lacking such resources in Turin should make Rangers reflect on problems deep within their homeland.

Gascoigne could find himself cast as a hangover cure when Rangers face Heart of Midlothian tomorrow. Smith said yesterday that Gascoigne is back in training after a thigh strain and could play at Ibrox, and then against Aberdeen in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final on Tuesday.

Birmingham under scrutiny

By Russell Kempson

BIRMINGHAM City's ability to grab headlines was no better illustrated than yesterday, when the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club was asked for explanations on two counts. Its first accusers were the St Andrew's supporters, who claimed they were being overcharged by having to pay a £15 membership fee before they could buy tickets for away matches.

At the game against Portsmouth at Fratton Park on Saturday, Birmingham's 200-strong London Supporters' Club collected 700 signatures calling for the Away Travel Club to be scrapped.

Birmingham City Council's trading standards office is investigating.

David Sullivan, co-owner of the club, said there may have been minor mistakes in advertising prices for pre-season match tickets. "If we have done something wrong — and I don't think we have — we will have to pay the price," he said.

Birmingham could also face action by the Football League over complaints that they made an illegal approach for Paul Peschisoldo, their former striker. Peschisoldo now plays for Stoke City and is married to Karen Brady, the

managing director of Birmingham.

It has also been claimed by Stoke that Brady was "unethical and unprofessional" in revealing private information about Peschisoldo's transfer from St Andrew's. Stoke are paying Birmingham £10,000 for every goal, over five and up to 20, that Peschisoldo scores this season.

The Football Association has signed a £2 million sponsorship deal with the manufacturer of Snickers, the chocolate bar. The money will be used for the England team and to help to promote football at schools level.

British teams still refusing to learn lesson

Rob Hughes reflects on another night of European failure for the English and Scottish champions

AS Blackburn Rovers and Rangers returned home vanquished in the early hours of yesterday morning, the painful truth dawned that, of 28 goals scored in six European Cup Champions' League games on Wednesday night, not one entered the net from the boot or head of a British footballer.

Richard Gough will claim that his goal, a consolation after Juventus had already put four past Rangers, cannot be taken away from him. But the Juventus goalkeeper would claim that he was beaten only after the ball had taken a wicked deflection off the defender, Cira Ferreira.

The 4-1 scoreline in favour of the Italians was at least a hiding for the Scottish champions from a high-quality team. Blackburn have now played five European games over two seasons and beaten nobody. That is the pain of the truth: our champions are rank novices abroad, our football is living a lie if you listen to those who insist that British is best.

Ray Harford, such a genuine man, and such a new manager of the English champions, tried to hide what must have been his true feelings as the team returned to Black-

pool airport. "There's still hope," he said. "I was quite pleased with our shape to-night. We looked like the Blackburn of old, we kept a rigid shape, we were very difficult to beat."

Rigid — there is the word that gives it all away. Legia Warsaw, a team representing a country in a state of improvisation, still learning how to adjust to capitalism after communism, were just as ravaged by injuries as Blackburn and nobody would presume them to be among the elite of Europe. Yet they were a team that moved without rigidity, without stereotype.

When Blackburn began this quest last month, Harford had said: "There is no question of adapting our game to suit the Europeans." No indeed. But where, one wonders, lies the contribution of Kenny Dalglish? Having vacated the managerial chair in the summer, yet retained a lucrative position at the club, we were told that King Kenny was the European expert. He has not, it would appear, set foot out of the country to pursue any opponent. He certainly was not aboard in Warsaw, nor there to lend visible support to the struggle.

To be fair, it was Dalglish who gave credibility to Jack Walker's dream of resurrecting Rovers. But now, with the

whole enterprise sagging, the suggestion is that even Alan Shearer does not have the guile, the movement or the experience to outwit a marker and a sweeper. The European expertise of a highly paid employee, it seems, is absent.

Yet, what price experience? Pawel Janas, formerly a stalwart defender in the Poland national team and now the coach to Legia, journeyed to Ewood Park last Saturday to spy on Blackburn for himself. In contrast, Harford had studied videotape of four Legia matches, none of which contained footage of Jerzy Podbrzyny, the goalkeeper who separated the teams in Warsaw on Wednesday.

There is something second-hand, something parochial and peculiarly British about the way that our teams venture into the unknown. And so swift has Blackburn's rise been that it has been impossible to promote from within, to build a youth policy, to prepare for Europe in the way that other teams do.

Wednesday was a night for youth. Ajax, of course, have turned boys into men from the outset, and Patrick Kluivert, whose goal won the European Cup last May, scored two of the three this time as they brushed aside Grasshopper Zurich in group D.

Beating that, in the same group, Raul Gonzalez, 18, netted a hat-trick in Real Madrid's 6-1 victory over Ferencvaros. However, he did have more than a little help from an old-timer, Michel Gonzalez, no relation but 14 years his senior, bridged the sporting generation gap by prompting and providing for the teenager.

And, though it was the ravenous Kavanishi, playing after an ultrasonic scan on an injured thigh, who devastated Rangers with two goals in Turin, there was another one for Alessandro Del Piero, the young consort of the Italian armed forces.

Finally, in the youth stakes, Lars Ricken, another teenager, scored the only goal by which Borussia Dortmund beat Steaua Bucharest, the one goal from 16 shots that Borussia fired at the Romanian net. A look around Europe produces so little comfort for those at home. Blackburn, still swearing that the FA Carling Premiership is their priority, moved in and out of Warsaw seeing and learning not a thing about people's lives, or about the subtleties of European play.

Blackburn are novices abroad, our football is living a lie

New Avenue head back to main road

By Keith Pike

IT WAS a fixture soaked in nostalgia. There it was, sandwiched between matches in the Unibond League and the Avon Insurance Combination in the list for Wednesday night, Bradford Park Avenue versus Accrington Stanley, a contest resonant of cloth caps and boots with toe-caps.

Accrington, who resigned from the Football League in 1962, won 3-2 after extra time to book their place in the second qualifying round of the FA Umbro Trophy. Tomorrow, Avenue will be hoping for better things in the FA Cup, when they travel to Marine for a fourth qualifying round tie.

Both games will help to raise the profile of a club some might have thought had died when Avenue failed to gain re-election to the League in 1970, a decision that enabled Cambridge United to enter the fourth division and that still rankles with some in Yorkshire.

"I heard it on the radio, and I just could not believe it," Alan Sutcliffe, an Avenue supporter for nearly 40 years, said yesterday. Thus began a battle for survival that is now beginning to pay dividends.

Four years spent flitting with liquidation and playing in the Northern Premier League only extended Avenue's agonies. The ground was sold in 1973, and in May 1974, shareholders voted to wind up the club, formed in 1907, over debts of £57,652. Diehard supporters regis-

tered the club's name at Companies House, formed a Sunday League club, and for 14 seasons refused to let the name die.

In 1988, with Sutcliffe now secretary, Avenue entered the West Riding County Amateur League. They earned a place in the North West Counties League for the 1990-91 season, which got them to the lower reaches of the promotion pyramid. But it was last season, now as tenants at Batley rugby league club, that Avenue's revival really gathered pace.

Twenty points behind Clitheroe with 13 matches left, Avenue won the lot, and the league by four points. A reasonable start to the Unibond League first division campaign this season has been coupled with FA Cup victories over Armthorpe Welfare, Knowsley United, Accrington and Curzon Ashton, so that they are now one victory away from a place in the first round proper of a competition in which they reached the quarter-finals three times.

"It has taken us a lot longer than we thought, but we are now properly re-established and are aiming for a place in the Vauxhall Conference. 'Best of all, next season we hope to be playing at Horsfall Stadium, just over a mile away from our old ground in Bradford. We think that our crowds (at present around 250) will double overnight."

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet v Boreham Wood (7.45); BORD GALS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v UCD (7.45); Drogheda v Duncalk (7.45); St Patrick's Ath v Galway (7.45); Athlone v Shelbourne (8.0).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Full Term Trophy: Second round: Grantham v East Ridg (at South Kesteven Stadium, 7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

HALIFAX EMERGING NATIONS WORLD CUP: Group one: Cook Islands v Scotland (at Castleford, 7.30); Russia v United States (at Warrington, 7.30); Group two: Ireland v Morocco (at Doncaster, 7.30).

RUGBY UNION

Club matches

Portliff v Abercromby (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: McDonald's Championship: London Arena, 7.0 and 8.30.

CRICKET: Indoor World Cup (Mile Park, Birmingham).

GOLF: Alfred Dunhill Cup (St Andrews, Sunderland).

SNOOKER: Shada Grand Prix (Sunderland).

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Oxford v Arena Essex (7.45); Peterborough v Belle Vue.

TENNIS: International women's tournament (Brighton).

THE SUNDAY TIMES

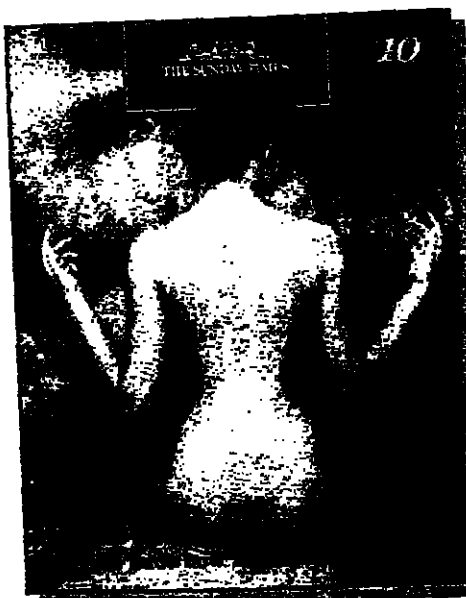
THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

It's the big one: England clash with Wales on Saturday in the Rugby League World Cup semi-final. Don't miss The Sunday Times Sport for top-class coverage of the match they are calling the Battle of Britain



THE WAY OF ALL FLESH

The Culture views Helmut Newton's latest studies of nudes and asks: is the naked female still a fit subject for photography?



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parashakti	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
FC Porto	2	1	1	0	3	1	5
Nantes	2	1	1	0	4	4	4
Arsenal	2	0	2	0	2	1	3
FC Porto	2	0	2	0	2	1	3

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain Moscow	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Lazio Warsaw	2	1	1	0	5	3	5
Blackburn	2	1	0	1	4	3	4
Blackburn	2	0	2	0	2	1	3

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	2	2	0	0	10	2	6
Dortmund	2	1	1	0	5	3	5
Bucharest	2	1	0	1	4	3	4
Rangers	2	0	2	0	2	1	3

Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Real Madrid	2	1	1	0	5	3	5
Ferencváros	2	1	0	1	5	3	4
Grasshopper	2	0	2	0	3	0	3

Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parashakti	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
FC Porto	2	1	1	0	3	1	5
Nantes	2	1	1	0	4	4	4
Arsenal	2	0	2	0	2	1	3

Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain Moscow	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Lazio Warsaw	2	1	1	0	5	3	5
Blackburn	2	1	0	1	4	3	4
Blackburn	2	0	2	0	2	1	3

Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	2	2	0	0	10	2	6
Dortmund	2	1	1	0	5	3	5
Bucharest	2	1	0	1	4	3	4
Rangers	2	0	2	0	2	1	3

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Real Madrid	2	1	1	0	5	3	5
Ferencváros	2	1	0	1	5	3	4
Grasshopper	2	0	2	0	3	0	3

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الرياضة

Wasps stung by third defection

Popplewell jumps aboard the gravy train to Newcastle

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH rugby union will hold a summit meeting in London today as the country's first division clubs look nervously over their shoulders at Newcastle's encroaching tentacles. Yesterday, Nick Popplewell, of Ireland, agreed to join Newcastle, and that leaves Wasps, in particular, wondering about the shape of their team for the second half of the league season.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) commission, chaired by Tony Hallett, will sit down with representatives of the leading clubs, whose own working parties on contracts, marketing and playing structure reached their conclusions in camera at Leicester on Wednesday evening.

At the same time, the National Clubs Association (NCA), representing all 40 clubs in the top four divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship, is to make a series of representations to the RFU — what the NCA calls "bullet points" — the main thrust of which is to claim a much more influential place at the governing body's table.

The NCA executive believes that the restructuring process undertaken by the RFU earlier this year has already been made obsolete by the decision to make rugby an open game. "The requirements and needs of the top clubs must be addressed as a matter of urgency," their paper determines, to which Wasps would doubtless add their imprimatur now that Popplewell is following the trail blazed by Rob Andrew and Dean Ryan, his club colleagues.

The Ireland prop, capped 33 times, has already returned to Dublin to work, but intends to be available for Wasps while serving his period of eligibility for Newcastle. "The move is very appealing and I see it as a great challenge," Popplewell said, though Wasps were already looking towards his successor — probably Detmer Molloy, when he recovers from a groin strain — because

the Irishman is not available for midweek training.

However, his move, in a week when representatives of the Ireland squad are meeting their union to discuss international contracts, is yet further illustration of the pressures affecting all the leading clubs that seek to protect their players.

The NCA paper emphasises the long-term investment by clubs, in player development and welfare, and their need for proper management control.

Player contracts must be club contracts primarily, with compensation payable to those clubs whose players also sign an "England contract," the NCA argues.



Popplewell: fresh fields

Bristol has already discussed contracts based, in part, on a loyalty clause, while Australian players, for example, are contracted to their provinces.

In South Africa, it is the national union that holds the signatures of the leading players; that, though, is largely a consequence of the threat imposed last summer by the unofficial World Rugby Championship organisation.

"We will all sign our cards on the table on Friday," Hallett said. "We understand that we may face a legal challenge to our regulations if we maintain them, or try to tighten them,

but, if I were an England player, or aspired to be one, I would stick with the club that brought me to the threshold of international selection. I am optimistic that we have a sufficiently good understanding with the clubs that we can stay together until we get things right."

The NCA, for its part, seeks equivalent status on the RFU to any other constituent body, with its executive committee representing a sub-committee of the union. It also wants greater representation on all the union's sub-committees, in particular, on the streamlined RFU executive committee.

It proposes change to the league structure by retaining a first division of ten clubs, but introducing, from next season, a second division of 14 clubs and a third division of 16. That assumes a European dimension, for which it presses as strongly as it opposes an intermediary divisional strata between club and country, but cross-border fixtures will take a back seat today behind the debate on player movement.

In preparation for the European Cup, Munster, the Irish provincial champions, are to undertake a two-match tour of Italy. They will play Lombardy in Milan on Tuesday and Calvisano three days later. Form on the trip will be considered when the team to play Swansea at Thomond Park in their first ERC pool match, on November 1, is selected. Munster will then take on Castres in France a week later.

Simon Geoghegan, the Ireland wing, is forced to rest an injured groin after marking his debut this season with a try for Bath last weekend. His place in the Bath team to play Harlequins in London tomorrow goes to Andy Lumsden. Arwel Thomas, the Wales Under-21 stand-off half, will make his league debut for Bristol in the West Country derby against Gloucester at the Memorial Ground tomorrow.

Wood fails to fill void left by Graf's early exit

By ALEX RAMSAY

THE Brighton Centre had the air of the *Mary Celeste* about it yesterday. Steffi Graf had swept out of town, taking the German press corps and most of the public interest with her. And it was only the second round of the women's international tennis tournament.

Clare Wood, the British No 1, was the nearest thing to a crowd-puller left, but she failed to last until tea-time, going out 6-2, 7-6 to Helena Sukova, the No 6 seed and beaten finalist last year. May be the Lawn Tennis Association's decision to sell the tournament was a wisest move than anyone had thought — sell quick before it dies on its feet.

Wood, who lives in Brighton, will be said to see the tournament go. "I just think the top players are more picky about where they play and

Brighton results — 42

why," she said. "When Steffi played on Wednesday the place was packed. If she was still here it would still be packed. It just shows the influence of the best players on the tournament."

Wood's influence on the Brighton wake was not quite as she had hoped. Ranked No 217 in the world, the gap between her and Sukova, the No 23, was made to look unbridgeable as Wood sank to 4-0 down in the first set before waking up to her task.

But even when Wood began to get into her stride, Sukova just eased away from her. "Getting off to a 4-0 down start is not the best way to begin," she said. "It's so difficult to break her and I was struggling even to get close."

She was also struggling to help George Hendon, the tournament director in his final fling at Brighton. The last time she played well at the event was in 1993, when Graf did not enter and she found herself at the centre of local attention. "I thought it would be good to have a British player in the latter stages of the tournament to help



Wood serves during her straight-sets defeat by Sukova at the Brighton Centre yesterday

George, because he's been good to me. It added a little pressure, but not too much to handle."

Pressure is not something one easily associates with British women's tennis. When the Brighton tournament first started in 1978, Sue Barker and Virginia Wade — who

between them had four grand-slam singles titles — flew the flag for Britain. This time Wood was a wild card and Samantha Smith, beaten in the first round, was a qualifier, having just started her comeback after giving up the game altogether to go to university.

The tournament at least has one world top-ten player left in the quarter-finals. Magdalena Maleeva came back from a set down to beat Barbara Rittner 1-6, 6-4, 6-1. As the world No 8, she is now the top seed left in the event. The Brighton tournament may be dead, but it is not buried quite yet.

Watersports centre examines reasons for sickness

By JOHN GOODBODY

MEDICAL researchers at Nottingham University are investigating whether there is a health hazard at Holme Pierrepont, Britain's leading watersports centre, which is located in Nottingham.

The Sports Council, which administers the centre, has commissioned the university medical school to conduct a year-long survey after reports of athletes becoming ill. The researchers will test the quality of the water and question competitors about any illnesses they may suffer. The first reports will be given to the council within the next month.

Most of the complaints have centred on the canoe slalom course, which is a diversion of the River Trent, into which treated sewage flows. John Davies, director of the centre which has staged world championships in canoeing and rowing, accepted that there had been about 50 complaints from people with gastric problems but pointed out that about 70,000 people use the centre each year. "People going abroad run the same level of risk," he said.

He emphasised that the slalom course and the separate 2,500-metre rowing course were checked for bacteria. "We are not in the business of putting people at risk," he said. "If there is any risk, we close the centres." This has been necessary five times within the past year.

"During periods of heavy rainfall, there is a potential for untreated raw sewage to flow into the river Trent," Davies added. Last summer, the artificial regatta lake was also affected by blue-green algae and competitors, such as swimmers and triathletes, who regularly immerse themselves in the water, were stopped from doing so.

Dr Keith Neal, of the university medical school, said that questionnaires were being handed out to users of the centre and nearly 500 had already been collated. He is examining whether there is a link between the quality of the water and any illness. Early results show that the water "is of reasonably good quality."

Hendry made to wait for victory

By PHIL YATES

DESPITE kicking his heels for an hour and a half, Stephen Hendry smoothly reached the last 16 of the Skoda Grand Prix in Sunderland yesterday, but that did not prevent the world snooker champion from being heavily critical of the tournament's format.

Hendry, who compiled breaks of 75, 60, 58, 69 and 112 during a 5-2 win over Mark Bennett, was scheduled to play at 2.30pm, but, with several of the early matches over-running, a table did not become available until 4pm.

Hendry described the noon start for the early matches as "ridiculous", adding: "It's not the first time I've been kept waiting like this and my concentration was terrible in the opening few frames."

Hendry, who surprisingly trailed 2-1 before striking a purple patch, continued: "You get yourself ready then have to hang around. I'm sure it was the same for Mark and, besides, by starting later you're cheating the public as well. The win is a relief because I wasn't in a good state mentally."

Bangkok and Sunderland have little in common but, in the last seven months, Willie Thorne has left both cities as the victim of James Wattana's powers of recovery.

In March, Wattana beat him 5-4 in the Thailand Open after falling 4-2 in arrears. Yesterday Thorne led 4-1 after breaks of 43, 109, 62 and 69, yet lost 5-4 on the final black when he misjudged the pace of a safety shot and Wattana potted the vital ball to a balk pocket.

During his 17 years as a professional Steve Davis has been involved in some marathon encounters but, after requiring four hours and 26 minutes to edge out Jason Ferguson 5-4, the six times world champion looked suitably jaded. In contrast, John Higgins, the title-holder, expended little nervous energy during a routine 5-1 win over Neal Foulds.

Results, page 42

Pantani thankful to have survived

MARCO PANTANI, of Italy, who will be out of action for four to six months after colliding with a car at 50mph during the Milan to Turin cycle race on Wednesday, said that it was a miracle he was still alive. Speaking to Beppe Martinelli, the manager of his Carrera-Tassoni team, Pantani said: "What a fight, Beppe. If I'm still alive, it's a real miracle."

The doctor who operated on the exposed break of Pantani's left leg said that he could not rule out further treatment. "He'll need four to six months [to recover] and I can't exclude the possibility of another operation," he said.

Pantani was chasing the leaders with two other riders down a hill 4½ miles from the finish when the accident happened. As they came out of a bend, they hit a vehicle coming out of a side road. The others suffered only minor injuries.

Dallongeville dazzles

GOLF: Stephanie Dallongeville showed her liking for La Manga Club for the second time this year when she shot a six-under-par 66 to lead the first round of the Spanish Open today. Dallongeville, winner of the qualifying-school tournament over the same course last March, scored seven birdies in her lowest round as a professional. She leads by two strokes Wendy Dick and Helen Wadsworth, of Britain, who share second place with the defending champion, Marie-Laure de Larentis. Rachel Hetherington, of Australia, and Sofia Gronberg and Asa Gonnin, both of Sweden.

Bates outclassed

TENNIS: Michael Chang, the American top seed, needed only 51 minutes to beat the British player, Jeremy Bates, right, in the second round of the Beijing tournament yesterday. Chang, rated fifth in the world, won 6-3, 6-2, to book a berth in the quarter-finals, joining Shuzo Matsuoka, of Japan, and the sixth-seed, Scott Draper, of Australia, who beat Henrik Dreekman, of Germany, in three hard sets.



Burns makes progress

MOTOR RALLYING: Richard Burns, of Britain, recorded the fastest time of the day in the 555 Hong Kong-Beijing Rally yesterday to pull himself up to third place overall. With one day to go, he is 3min 29sec behind the leader, Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden. "My goal is to be fastest on the final two stages — though they are on tarmac and I am a little out of practice in that style of driving," Burns said.

Records shattered

POWERBOATING: Geoff Purves, of Leatherhead, broke the world record for Offshore Class III four-litre boats, with a speed of 91.63mph, in the annual record attempts week on Windermere. Andreas Kuphal, of Germany, set a world record of 79.29mph for 250cc hydroplanes. Tony Davis, of Poole, broke the national record for national production cruisers II, with a speed of 73.03mph.

Boost for Obree's Olympic chances

By PETER BRYAN

THREE weeks after regaining his world 4,000 metres cycling pursuit title in Colombia, Graeme Obree yesterday signed a one-year contract that, he said, "could take away all my worries about preparing properly for the Atlanta Olympics next year."

Obree, without a main sponsor since he first made an impact in 1993, when he broke the world one-hour record and went on to win the world pursuit title, will ride for Scottol, an Aberdeen company providing services to the oil industry.

The Olympic Games are Obree's main target for 1996 when Chris Boardman, of Britain, is unlikely to be able to defend the title he won in Barcelona because he is committed to the Tour de France as leader of the French Can team.

Obree ensured Britain's entry for the Games with his world-pursuit victory over Andrea Collinelli, of Italy, by 0.49sec last month with a time of 4min 24.18sec.

"This contract gives me the freedom I have always wanted," Obree said yesterday. "It means that I am not forced to ride to earn appearance money. Now I can select my own programme of events and know that I won't be out of pocket."

The Scot, 30, has his first race since the world championship in Italy on Sunday, a one-kilometre road time-trial, but goes on to more serious things the next day with a 4,000 metres pursuit against Boardman in Paris.

Obree appeared, yesterday, to have been persuaded that he should give up building his own racing frames, leaving it to more expert hands. He said he might "switch to bikes that are made from carbon fibre rather than steel."

Claudio Chiappucci, of Italy, won his second Tour of Piedmont title yesterday, breaking away with four kilometres remaining and then holding off Stefano Zanini, winner of the Milan-Turin race.



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EVERY DAY until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, in association with Cox & Kings, are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two to a range of destinations throughout the world.

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TODAY'S PRIZE WORTH £4,000

This journey, through the sixth largest country in the world, takes you to the border with Argentina, where the gigantic Igazu Falls, shrouded in mist, cascade through a tangle of forest vegetation. You will tour Rio de Janeiro, a city which more than lives up to its flamboyant reputation, and see the famous concrete statue of Christ on top of the Corcovado peak, blessing the carnival city below. You will fly to where the Amazon joins the Rio Negro and visit Manaus, inaccessible by land until a few years ago, and now a tourist centre with an opera house. The hotels you stay in are four or five-star except the converted mansion in the historical town of Ouro Preto, declared a national monument in 1933, and the comfortable safari-type lodge in the Amazon jungle. You will end your holiday in Salvador, a culturally fascinating former goldmining town on the Atlantic coast.

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The tour is operated by Cox & Kings, a leading specialist in tours to Latin America and India. For details of how to get your 10 per cent discount on this holiday, call the brochure hotline on 01369 70 77 11.



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Day 1 Fly to Rio de Janeiro with British Airways. Day 2 Transfer to the Hotel Sheraton for two nights. Day 3 Cable car ride up Sugar Loaf Mountain and drive through Rio and the Tijuca forest to the summit to see the statue of Christ the Redeemer. Day 4 Fly to Igazu Falls and transfer to the Hotel Das Cataratas for two nights. Day 5 Free time. Day 6 Fly to Belo Horizonte and drive to the Pousada Mondongo, Ouro Preto, for two nights. Day 7 Morning tour and free afternoon. Day 8 Fly to Manaus, gateway to the Amazon, and transfer to the Hotel Tropical for one night. Day 9 Transfer by road and boat along the Amazon to the Amazon village (or similar), where you will stay for two nights. Afternoon and evening on foot and by canoe into the jungle. Day 10 Excursions into the Amazon jungle. Day 11 Return to Manaus for one night. Day 12 Fly to the old colonial town of Salvador and transfer to the Hotel Bahia Othon for four nights. Day 13 Morning tour of Salvador. Days 14 and 15 Free time for going to the beach or sightseeing places

like the cathedral where everything, altar, walls, ceiling and statues, are all coated with gold. Days 16 and 17 Fly to Rio and return to London.

DATES OF DEPARTURES

Jan 25, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 23, Jul 11, Aug 15, Sep 19, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12, 1996.

Prices from £1,795, down from £1,995, includes international and domestic flights, 14 nights twinshare accommodation, transfers, sightseeing, a local guide, breakfast plus four lunches and two dinners.

● The winner of our 16-day holiday to Costa Rica was Ms Sarah Reeves Tucker of Salisbury.

HOW TO WIN TODAY'S PRIZE

To win today's holiday answer the questions below and phone our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 which will be open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. Which town has been declared a national monument?
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TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO NEPAL

Atherton feels comfortable in hot seat

David Miller finds the England captain in a confident mood as he sets out to conquer South Africa

There is nobody in English sport more exposed, in performance, character and leadership, than the captain of the Test team, Ian Chappell, foremost among Australia cricket captains, said when commenting on the Melbourne Test last winter. "These are the field placings of a captain who has lost faith in his bowlers."

Michael Atherton's captaincy survived a disappointing, much criticised tour: just. He was initially reappointed, some thought insultingly, only for the opening three matches of the summer. By September, he had confirmed that he is becoming one of the outstanding England captains in post-war cricket.

For his resolution at the crease and leadership against West Indies, he is certainly more worthy of being the sports personality of the year than the BBC's usual run of snooker players, motor racing drivers or self-preoccupied runners.

During a period of substantial change in personnel and constant frustration from injuries, Atherton has held the reins for 24 of his 50 Tests, winning seven and losing ten. He is only 27. On England's first official visit to South Africa for 31 years, he has the chance to consolidate a position that could remain his to the turn of the century.

For a Lancastrian, he has a Yorkshire streak of obstinacy that is invaluable both as opening batsman and captain. Like a panel of walnut wood, the colours of his personality have become more apparent with maturity. He is pleasingly without assumptions.

"I haven't changed much in style," he says, "just become more experienced, so that I'm able to do better because I'm dealing with things for the second or third time. I'm more positive, though that's not to say I was previously negative."

"Maybe my demeanour, the field placings [in Australia], betrayed we were on the back foot, that we needed more ideology. After the defeat in Brisbane, it was difficult."

He feels he has been consistent, true to himself, straightforward with the team. "Those who play under me know that I'm not image-conscious, that what they see is what they get. It's very simple. I demand the basics from them. If they don't give that, I'm entitled to feel upset. If they do, I'm understanding of their [individual] failings." Like the best in any field, he leads by example.

Atherton played for England first under David Gower,



Atherton, maturing as batsman and captain, looks set for a lengthy reign. Photograph: John Manning

briefly in 1989, then Graham Gooch for Lancashire, under David Hughes, Neil Fairbrother and Mike Watkinson. He learnt by observation rather than discussion. "I do talk to people, but there's no one I ring once a week. I did go out of my way to talk to Ian Chappell, the best of the modern Australians, and I've been lucky to have had Keith Fletcher and Raymond Illingworth [as managers] because they're so well-regarded."

Cannily, he never considers how long he might continue, always thinking in the short term, aware that reversal lurks around every corner. "I've been around long enough to know that if you're coasting,

the game can come back at you," he said, remembering his back injury four years ago. Atherton has found the relentless pressure of public scrutiny and expectation, and the demanding calendar, has served to harden his resolve to find a winning team. The tabloid press is not going to break this one.

"Playing the year round, you either lose your edge or become more determined. I feel more on top of it now, have proved I can handle the pressure of getting my due amount of runs at the top of the order — which is important as captain — and that tactically I've got a grip of things. I hope I'll improve."

In his unassuming way, he

is not sure if his reliability at the crease has come from need, the responsibility as captain or simply from the aggregate of experience. He admits the captaincy can at times be a burden, but talks lightly of the requirement for "a bit of equilibrium." He smiles easily.

On his relationship with Illingworth, who has been Field Marshal Montgomery's certainty of his own wisdom, Atherton is frank yet tactful. But the management structure is simpler and clearer, he says, with Illingworth as chairman and manager, and the captain in charge on the field, dealing with players first-hand.

Atherton insists he is happy with the extent of his input on selection. Illingworth having the casting vote, and that they

"He's not an interferer," Atherton says. "He's happy to let me get on with things, but I like to have him in the dressing-room because he has a good presence, he's somebody I can fall back on, talk to at lunchtime and tease him if the need arises. He's not too distant, despite his age. He's a professional Yorkshireman, and there's not a game in which he took five for 100 that he doesn't recall off-hand. He leaves room for self-mockery, which contradicts the criticism. I think he prefers the dressing-room to the committee-room."

Atherton insists he is happy with the extent of his input on selection. Illingworth having the casting vote, and that they

are now finding the continuity of selection fundamental to success. "If you chop and change you get nowhere."

After the Old Trafford Test this summer, men from Manchester Grammar School were queuing up to congratulate their former colleague, yet Atherton, never mind his Cambridge University background, sits comfortably in John Major's classless society, shoulder-to-shoulder with his team, yet sufficiently apart and secure, to be a respected captain.

The eye that can, and does, stare down Ambrose, when he follows through intimidatingly is one to avoid by any England player who might drift. When Atherton came on the scene in 1989, the Test side had been through a period of free-wheeling: a clique of friends sure of a place, a good income, and a shade happy-go-lucky. Atherton wants men who are first for England. "If there was any of that now and 'n' easy, they'd be out. We're getting there, the right type in the team, no bad eggs, nobody 'getting by'. There's enough

'We're getting there, the right type in the team, no bad eggs, no just getting by'

competition for that to be long past." Of the party for South Africa, the eight or nine "certain picks" make a sound nucleus — a happier situation, the captain says, than having Stewart, Smith, Gough, Malcolm and Hick injured, as in recent experience. "The established batsmen, myself, Stewart, Smith, Thorpe and Hick, are all in the right age group, all experienced, with Test hundreds behind them. That's a strong batting side. Malcolm, Gough, and Cork have genuine pace and fire-power, Fraser and Martin less pace but steadiness, applying pressure through accuracy. So I'm hopeful. The key thing will be maintaining fitness."

The No 3 in the batting order, he admits, is the debate. There was talk of taking another opener, but it was considered best for Nick Knight and Jason Gallian to go to Pakistan on the A tour. The chance is there for Ramprakash or Crawley to take.

Atherton shrugs off South Africa's high-pitched, in-season preparation. "That's an advantage, but we're more experienced, and you soon get back the buzz. The first three Tests will decide the series — they're the 'result' wickets."

If the England batsmen master Allan Donald, Atherton should return home victorious.

Of sausages and kings

Kaleidoscope Longings: Tintagel on Trial, Radio 4, 9.30pm.

Brian Patten's poetry is as accessible as the man himself. So, he is an ideal choice to be our guide through that rocky stretch of north Cornwall where myths abound. All involve Arthur, his knights, and good old Merlin. What began romantically with Malory and continued with Tennyson, has taken a turn for the worse in the town of Tintagel. They sell Excelsburgers in a fast food shop, and there's a cafe where, if you order a Sir Lancelot, you get a jacket potato stuffed with beans and sausages. Schoolchildren sing a song about departed knights and dead dragons. Yet Arthur is more real to them than Superman. For the romantically minded, it is welcome news that Tintagel has not totally banished magic.

Composer of the Week, Radio 3, noon.

Long overdue is this acknowledgment that Charles Villiers Stanford is worthy of the Composer of the Week accolade. The Stanford works we have been hearing this week have mostly been intelligently chosen to show the wide range of his output. Just one complaint, though: I should have thought Radio 3 was opposed to what Classic FM often does — play single movements from symphonies and sonatas. Today, we hear only the first movement from Stanford's Cello Sonata No 2, and the third movement from his Symphony No 7. But the third and fourth Irish rhapsodies are heard as written. It would have been impossible to cut them.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 9.00am Sarah Kennedy
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foot, and it drums like a woodpecker. A cigarette in his hand burns down its whole length in two seconds. Humans dressed as flies buzz around the room. A chandelier tinkles and its light-bulbs fuse. As a picture of madness it was quite scary enough, but only because I could say whether it evoked the real thing.

Meanwhile, Beaudin's friends talked openly to camera, giving rise to the interesting speculation that the line between schizophrenia and documentary-making is perhaps dangerously thin. If the camera is present, you are OK; if it's not there, you're nuts. Good grief, one day Major Crispin may be discovered on his bunk saying "Because I like chips actually!" or "No, I don't think I'll get married in the near future. And when he comes to the gentle Mollie's corner, they will look round, see nothing, and gently lead him away.

Lynne
Truss

described a voice that regularly urged her to slash her legs. How odd that in the one area of life where you can be choosy about your acquaintance, the outcome is so dismal.

Jake's Progress (Channel 4) last night found the fierce females in the ascendant, and the sweet, ineffectual menfolk hiding their heads in the sand with their arms linked. Mum, a pattern appears to


focus a tragedy on the male refusal to face facts. Ibsen did it once or twice; Arthur Miller does it all the time. But the cleverness is to write about it in 1990s Britain, when more than ever before, income and lifestyle are unrelated concepts, and marriages founder on material disappointment. Doubtless Bleasdale wished to avoid the more banal aspects of the dramatic situation he'd invented (squabbles about shopping), but as a petti-

Both strands were interesting, but it was hard to see where, or why, they joined. A director from Aardman Animations (the company famous for Wallace and Gromit adventures) put together a short, surreal, black and white time-lapse film featuring a room, a chair, a man. The man taps his

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CHANNEL 4

6.35am Heathcliff (r) (5652594)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (14468)
9.30 Saboteur. Women-only quiz (r) (s) (32730)
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (6849759) **9.45 Stop, Look and Listen** (6837914) **10.00 Founways Farm** (59818)
10.10 Believe It or Not (3284864) **10.27 Maths Bo**
(775138) **10.40 Off Limits** (8172933) **11.05 W**
Things Go (3523956) **11.20 Stage C**
(3542862) **11.35 Sports Live** (5754484) **11**
How We Used to Live (3145730)
12.00pm Garden Doctors (r) (s) (52594)
12.20 Seaside Street. Early-learning series (12117)
1.30 Katie and Orbie (r) (77391)
2.00 Gramplan Shesbury Trials (6310)
2.30 FILM: Twinkl Potty (1944, b/w, Bernard M
wrote, directed (with Charles Saunders) and star
in this comedy about the effect on the inhabitants
a Cotswold village when a pair of rare birds bu
nest in a nearby meadow (55865)
4.00 Think Tank. Teeny quiz (s) (204)
4.30 Cutting to One. Quiz Teletext (s) (488)
5.00 Fiftteen to Eight: The Trouble with Money
(Teletext) (s) (3489)
6.00 Blossom (r) (Teletext) (s) (681)
6.32 Happy Days (r) (Teletext) (568333)
6.55 Murny Buchstansanger. Cartoon (265488)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (236827)
7.55 Book Choice. A review of Sabbath Theater
Philip Roth (s) (565285)
8.00 Garden Doctors. Horticultural designer D
Pearson helps to revive the land around a conver
almshouse in Braddon, south London (3846)



David Crosby prepares for a spree (8.30pm)
8.30 Brookside. David Crosby (John Burgess) receives a windfall. (Teletext) (s) (5611)

- 9.00 **Heroes of Comedy:** Joyce Kilmer. Portrait of the comedian (s) (4592)
- 10.00 **Fraser:** The Alamo. Alamo goes back to roots. Cheers when Sam (Ted Danson) arrives Seattle. (Teletex) (s) (53222)
- 10.30 **Clive Anderson Talks Back to**, among others Earle Kint (s) (584204)
- 11.10 **Passengers:** Youth magazine series. L. Longdrag, an Australian lesbian cop who works gay and lesbian liaison officer in Sydney, presents her video diary (s) (112136)
- 12.00 **NBA Live: The McDonald's Championship:** Second day of the NBA basketball season. Two winners from last night's meet in the semi-final while the Houston Rockets play the Atlanta champions. Tomorrow: the final (46995)
- 1.00 **LMIL: Train of Dreams** (1987). Study of delinquent 17-year-old Jason St. Amour, who criminal behavior leads to a two-year sentence in a state correctional institute. Directed by J. N. Smith (574957)

2.40 FILM: *Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror* (1942, b/w). With Basil Rathbone perfectly cast as the Baker Street sleuth, and Nigel Bruce as Watson. Directed by John Rawlins (8553605). Er

SATELLITE

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